The Middlebury Campus

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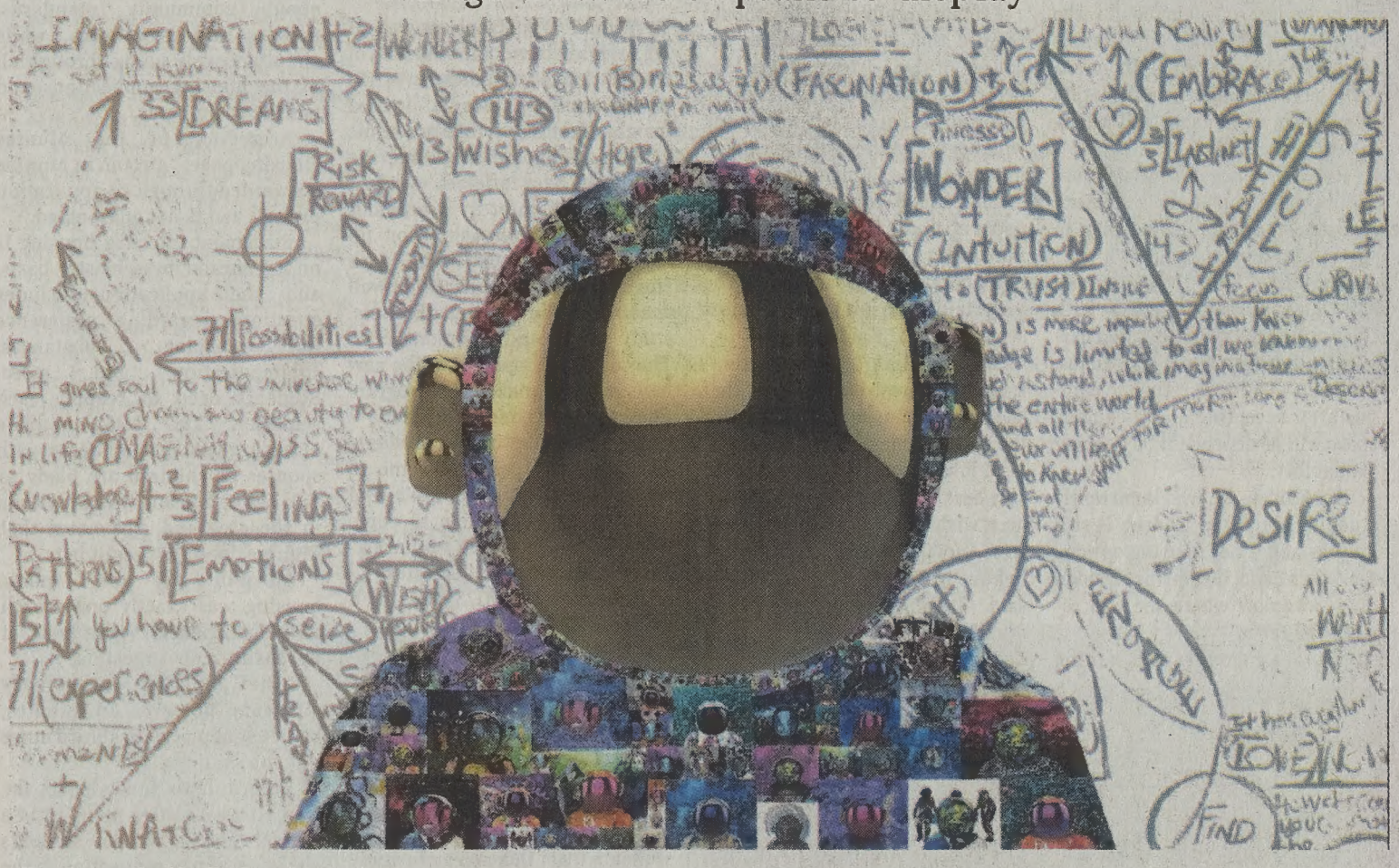
Mahaney '84 purchases $1.1 million NFT artwork, with supposed plans to display at Middlebury

Artist and gallery say work will go in college art museum; college unaware of plans to display



"The Future Has Not Yet Been Written" COURTESY BRENDAN MURPHY/STARK GROUP

By JAKE GAUGHAN
Editor at Large

On Wednesday, December 1, notable alumnus and donor Kevin Mahaney '84 purchased a $1,111,111 print on glass containing 200 "non fungible tokens" (NFTs) at the Art Miami exhibition during Art Basel. According to both a press release from artist Brendan Murphy as well as the seller of the artwork, Nicole McGraw, Mahaney plans on displaying the piece — Murphy's "The Future Has Not Yet Been Written" — in the Middlebury College Museum of Art, which is currently located in the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts. The purchase was initially reported by Kelly Crow of The Wall Street Journal.

According to Murphy's press release, his installation, which also includes a digital slideshow of the 200 NFTs included in the glass print — will be the first of two of Murphy's works that will be displayed at Middlebury. The second is a 22-foot tall sculpture named "Boonji Spaceman." The sculpture installation is planned for spring 2022. This past summer, a resort in Antigua hosted a similar Boonji Spaceman installation.

In an initial email response to The Campus' request for comment, College Director of Media Relations Sarah Ray said that the college is unaware of any arrangement regarding the college and the purchased piece. Ray suggested that there may be some confusion between the college's art center, the Kevin P. Mahaney '84 Center for the Arts, and Mahaney's foundation in Maine, the Kevin P. Mahaney Center for the Arts.

After The Campus notified Ray of the details of Murphy's press release, Ray reiterated that the college has no knowledge of any arrangement regarding the artworks.

The Campus was unable to contact Mahaney by time of press.

Mahaney is president and CEO of the Olympia Companies, a real estate development firm based in Portland, Maine. After graduating from Middlebury, Mahaney won a silver medal for sailing in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics.

In an email to The Campus,

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Middlebury students studying in Rabat scramble to leave Morocco as country closes down

By IDEAL DOWLING
Editor at Large

Upon learning on Sunday, Nov. 28 that Morocco was about to halt all incoming flights, three Middlebury students — who had been taking classes in the country during the fall 2021 semester — faced the urgent decision whether to find a flight out of the country within the day or to stay in Morocco and hope the travel shutdown would not extend beyond the original two weeks.

The Moroccan government instituted the ban due to concerns about the spread of Covid-19 and the new Omicron variant.

Abby Schneiderhan '23 and Eliza King Freedman '23 were visiting Paris to celebrate Thanksgiving when Morocco instituted a ban on direct flights from France starting Nov. 26. Because Morocco had not yet banned all incoming flights, Schneiderhan and King Freedman were able to reroute their return trip through Lisbon and successfully departed Portugal for Rabat on Monday, Nov. 29.

When the pair landed in Morocco that afternoon, they turned on their cellphones to a text from their program coordinator informing them that they would likely need to leave that night because Morocco had suspended all air travel.

"We weren't super freaked out until we got off the plane in Rabat," King Freedman said. "We didn't

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ARTS & CULTURE

MIDDLEBURY ALUM MARIA BC SET TO PERFORM AT SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST

By ALEXANDRA BURNS
Staff Writer

Recent Midd alum, Maria Bobbitt-Chertock '19.5, known by their stage name Maria BC, has been signed to the major music festival South by Southwest (SXSW), which will take place from March 14–20, 2022 in Austin, Texas.

> "I'm most nervous about actually playing because I have terrible stage fright. I'm nervous about being nervous.

The SXSW festival brands itself as a venue for emerging talent but also includes a handful of more established musicians like Horsegirl, Maxo Kream and Poppy Ajudha. Maria BC, who was signed by the independent UK-based record label Fear Of Missing Out Records last year, re-released their EP "Devil's Rain" in February. Maria BC will join 240 other artists performing at the festival.

SXSW festival director James Minor announced the lineup in late October.

"Our first round of Showcasing Artists is a taste of what you can expect to see at SXSW 2022; a diverse lineup full of adventurous talent that's ripe for discovery. We're looking forward to bringing the music world back together next March to see where we're headed," said Minor in a press release.

SXSW will be the largest festival Maria BC has played thus far.

"I'm most nervous about actually playing because I have terrible stage fright. I'm nervous about being nervous. My hands shake and my voice shakes," Maria BC said in an interview with The Campus. Still, they are excited to meet artists who they have only ever communicated with online and to play music with new friends.

Maria BC has been writing songs for as long as they can remember. "Songwriting feels natural and [like] a compulsion, and even if I don't have the time or energy, I'll feel compelled to do it anyway. I don't know why but it's the medium of making sense of the world that I am most drawn to," they said.

SPORTS

OUT WITH A BANG: ERIN NICHOLAS '22 LEADS FIELD HOCKEY TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN FINAL SEASON

By BLAISE SIEFER
Senior Sports Editor

COURTESY WILL COSTELLO

Erin Nicholas (#15) dribbles the ball down the field in the national final on Nov. 21. The Panthers would defeat Johns Hopkins, 4–1, with Nicholas pitching in two goals.

Erin Nicholas '22 entered high school with the intention of playing soccer. But the day before tryouts, she switched course and chose to play field hockey with her older sister.

Nearly a decade later, the two-time field hockey national player of the year laughs about this defining moment in her athletic career.

"The [high school field hockey] coaches told me that if they saw me on the soccer field, they would pull me by the ponytail over to field hockey," Nicholas said in an interview with The Campus. "I wanted to play [field hockey] with my sister. I heard great things about the team from her and I wanted to be a part of that."

"That's why I chose to play field hockey. And I'm very grateful I did."

When the Middlebury field hockey team took home their fourth consecutive national title on Sunday, Nov. 21, there was no doubting that Nicholas, a midfielder and captain, was the star of the show.

This fall, Nicholas paced the Panthers in goals (28) and points (64), helping the team to a NESCAC title, national championship and an undefeated record (22–0). She made history in November, becoming the first ever NESCAC field hockey player to win three straight conference player of the year honors. The only year she didn't win — her rookie year in 2017 — she was the league's rookie of the year.

The accolades that Nicholas has garnered over her four years at Middlebury could fill up an entire article and then some. Most notably, she is a two-time national field hockey player of the year and is pushing to win it a third time (the winner is expected to be announced later this month).

"We'd all agree we're lucky to have Erin [on the team]," goalkeeper Grace Harlan '22.5 told The Campus. "It's been an honor playing with her."

While the Panthers went undefeated this fall, several opponents put up a fight. Middlebury was pushed into overtime periods against Tufts (Oct. 10) and Williams (Oct. 26)

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Students to move out of Forest West, some begin off-campus lottery

By CHARLIE KEOHANE
Editor at Large

After a housing shortage this past semester pushed many students to satellite housing, upperclassmen housing is shifting once again. Students will move out of Forest West at the end of J-Term to make space for incoming Febs, and students currently studying abroad will return to campus in need of housing. Some students will be given the option to live off-campus but will lose guaranteed housing for future semesters.

During the fall housing lottery process, ResLife informed juniors and seniors that all floors on the west side of Forest were available for the fall and winter term only.

"All students selecting a Forest West space will need to plan to move before Feb break starts as Forest West will be home to part of the Feb community for the spring term," Associate Dean of Student Life AJ Place said in an email to The Campus.

Seniors, senior Febs and juniors were also informed via a ResLife email on Nov. 19 that they can apply to live off-campus for the spring 2022 semester. Applications were due Nov. 30 with a Zoom lottery on Dec. 2. Final confirmation of off-campus housing will be released on Dec. 17.

However, once students choose to live off-campus, they are not guaranteed on-campus housing in future semesters.

According to the email, "off-Campus release starts with the 2022 Spring Semester and carries until the student graduates. Students wishing to return to campus after accepting an off-campus space will be dependent on housing availability."

Eva Kaiden '23, who is currently studying abroad in Madrid, is still unclear about her housing options for J-term and the spring. Kaiden does not know where she will reside for J-term.

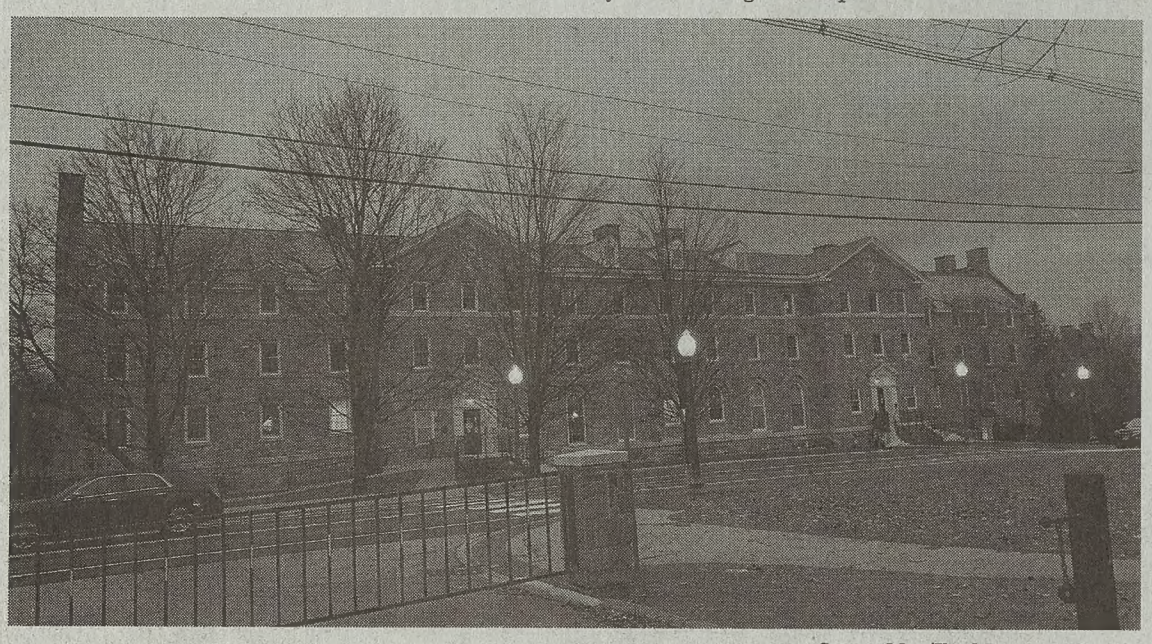
"We are currently still waiting on important information that we will need before we are able to work on housing assignments," a Dec. 3 email Kaiden received from ResLife said.

"If that's really true, they should require that students inform the college of their J-term status long before September so that students living abroad aren't left wondering whether or not they will have housing on campus," Kaiden said.

She added that many of her peers abroad are concerned about not having housing on campus and being moved to Bread Loaf. "The uncertainty of it all is the most stressful part," Kaiden said.

Bridget Ulian '23, who currently lives in Forest West, wishes that she had her housing assignment for the spring semester.

"I love Forest and would love to stay here. As that isn't possible, I at least wish we could know where we were moving sooner than a week before we're kicked out," Ulian said. "I also think moving in the middle of the school year is pretty disruptive."



SHIRLEY MAO/THE MIDDLEBUTY CAMPUS

Students will move out of Forest West at the end of J-Term to make space for incoming Febs and students currently studying abroad will return to campus in need of housing.

Middlebury students studying in Rabat scramble to leave Morocco as country closes down

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realize that Morocco was locking down or that the suspension of flights coming into Morocco meant that there would be no more flights out of Morocco either."

Though outbound flights were not explicitly banned, it is not economically practical for airlines to fly empty planes to terminals in Morocco. Thus, the only remaining outbound flights were those on planes that had entered the country before the travel ban commenced.

In further communication with program coordinators, Schneiderhan and King Freedman were told they needed to decide as soon as possible whether they wanted to leave within the next 24 hours or stay. The two-week lockdown period would end on Dec. 16, three days before the end date of the school semester, but there remained the possibility that Morocco would extend the travel ban.

"Our immediate reaction was, why are you putting the responsibility for that decision on us?" said King Freedman. "They told us that Morocco has a pattern of extending lockdowns, and when we asked if there was a contingency plan to get us out of the country if we stayed and the lockdown extended, the answer was no."

When Morocco instituted a similar travel shutdown at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic in March 2020, American students were stranded in the country for weeks before the U.S. State Department began chartering empty planes to retrieve them.

Bill Mayers, assistant director for international programs in China, India, Jordan and Morocco, explained that the time crunch students faced in deciding whether or not to leave was exacerbated by the fact that they were traveling back into Morocco at the time that the border shutdown was announced.

"We have contingency plans for the borders to close," Mayers wrote in an email to The Campus. "In this instance, however, a number of the students had left the country to celebrate Thanksgiving in France... and did not arrive back in Rabat until late Monday afternoon. By that time, however, Moroccan authorities had announced that they were instituting a complete ban on all international flights as well as the ferries with Europe."

Schneiderhan and King Freedman ultimately informed their program coordinator they wanted to leave, and the college told them a travel agent would book them flights home. A third Middlebury student, Katie Wilmore '23, who is studying in Morocco for the full year rather than just the fall semester, opted to stay.

The travel agent, employed by Middlebury, booked Schneiderhan and King-Freedman tickets on a Royal Air Maroc flight leaving the next day, but it was almost immediately canceled as the airline announced its suspension of all inbound and outbound international flights starting that night.

Looking for alternatives, Schneiderhan was able to buy a ticket on one of a number of empty AirFrance planes that the French government had chartered to repatriate French citizens.

"Although I appreciate the program's travel agents trying to book us flights to leave, it was kind of frustrating being able to book a flight myself for the next day after an entire travel agency said that there were no tickets left to leave Morocco," Schneiderhan said.

King Freedman tried to book the same flight, which would depart the morning of Tuesday, Nov. 30, but repeatedly encountered a glitch that prevented her payment from processing. She arrived at the airport early Tuesday morning to pay for her ticket in person, where she learned that many other people trying to leave the country had encountered the same obstacle because the system was overwhelmed by the amount of users trying to book flights.

"I was extremely anxious and upset because I thought I was not going to be able to get on a flight out of Morocco. I was basically begging the airport staff to let me on a flight," King Freedman said.

Thirty minutes before the flight was scheduled to depart, King Freedman was finally allowed to purchase a ticket. She and Schneiderhan flew to Paris, where they then boarded a flight to New York. The pair were safely back in the United States by Tuesday evening.

> "I was extremely anxious and upset because I thought I was not going to be able to get on a flight out of Morocco. I was basically begging the airport staff to let me on a flight."

"The entire process was so hectic. The college didn't even inform our host families we were leaving, so as I was scrambling to pack up, my family was asking me what was going on," King Freedman said.

Schneiderhan and King Freedman will complete their remaining two weeks of class and final exams remotely. Mayers expects the transition will go smoothly.

"Our instructors in Morocco were prepared to switch to remote classes in an event like this, or if students were forced to isolate because of Covid-19," Mayers said. "Academic continuity should not be a problem."

MIIS OPENS INSTITUTE-AFFILIATED STUDENT HOUSING FOR FIRST TIME

By KATIE FUTTERMAN
Staff Writer

Munras Housing at Middlebury Institute of International Studies (MIIS) in Monterey, California opened for the first time this academic year, marking the first time the Institute has offered student housing in Monterey. It provides fully furnished housing for up to 85 Institute students, with singles, doubles and triples as well as shared kitchens, bathrooms, study spaces and common areas. The college is hoping that the new housing will make the program more accessible for students.

"I've heard of many students who were not going to come to MIIS because they couldn't find housing, but were able to come because of building Munras," Saiya Yanagihashi, director of residential life at MIIS, said in an email to The Campus.

In the past, students have struggled to find affordable housing in Monterey's competitive housing market; some have even faced issues with landlords and renter scams. The new student housing will also make it more accessible for undergraduate students from the college to study at Monterey for a semester, as many landlords in the area only offer year-long contracts.

Munras housing starts at $4,500 for a triple room and is within a 10-minute walk from classes and other Institute facilities.

According to Yanagihashi, the planning and building process was a team effort between the Institute, construction company, building owners and the city of Monterey. When she began working for the Institute in August, most of the renovations were already complete. Jonathan Stoney and Lina Lyn, the two new RAs for Munras, were hired on Yanagihashi's first day on the job.

"Building a healthy community is at the center of all the work we do," Yanagihashi said. "We hired and trained RAs so they could enable community growth — both figuratively and literally."

Yanagihashi said that many of the policies and procedures were adapted from Middlebury and other colleges. They created videos to send to residents about community standards, policies and procedures, while simultaneously going through all of the housing applications and pairing roommates.

According to the Munras Housing page, "A room in Munras is awarded through an application process and is not guaranteed."

Placement into this housing is on a semester-by-semester basis, and the application includes questions regarding preference for sleeping, substances, communication and more. Students need to reapply each semester. The MIIS website also suggests that students with spouses or children are likely to find better housing with landlords in the area and also notes that Munras does not permit pets.

Move-in day for Munras housing was exactly one month after Yanagihashi began work at the Institute in August.

"The building was ready moments, not even 10 minutes, before students were able to move in," she said.

According to Yanagihashi, the first 10 weeks after move-in is a critical time. It is when students either develop a connection to the campus and community or feel a sense of isolation. The Institute hosted about two programs each week, including game nights, movie nights, cookie socials, puppy playdates, pumpkin carving and arts and crafts parties.

Now that they have passed the 10-week mark, Yanagihashi said they are shifting focus and establishing a smooth move-out process.

"The first year has gone great! We have had a lot of fun putting together systems and policies, while also building connections with our students," Yanagihashi said. "It's all been an exciting learning experience, and I look forward to making tweaks to processes to improve upon them."

Mahaney '84 purchases $1.1 million NFT artwork, with supposed plans to display at Middlebury

Artist and gallery say work will go in college art museum; college unaware of plans to display

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McGraw, Founder and Curator of Nicole McGraw Fine Art, the gallery from whom Mahaney purchased the glass print, wrote that such an acquisition marked a historical moment in the art world.

> "Brendan Murphy is a pioneer in the NFT space known for merging the Physical with the Digital. He is paving the way for artists to bridge these two mediums."

"The Future Has Not Yet Been Written is one of the first major NFT acquisitions by a museum," wrote McGraw. "Brendan Murphy is a pioneer in the NFT space known for merging the Physical with the Digital. He is paving the way for artists to bridge these two mediums."

NFTs are digital files connected to a corresponding ownership ledger. Theoretically "non fungible," a record of who owns any given NFT is kept on a blockchain, the same technology that enables cryptocurrency like Bitcoin and Ethereum. As a result, many popular environmental critiques of cryptocurrency also surround NFTs.

The 200 NFTs which are included in "The Future Has Not Yet Been Written" are from Murphy's NFT collection, Boonji Project. Similar to many NFTs, Boonji Project uses the Ethereum blockchain as an ownership ledger. According to the project's website, the collection itself consists of 11,111 similar yet "unique" programmatically generated images of an astronaut's suit, developed from Murphy's "Boonji Spaceman" sculptures.

PLANS SET FOR CELL TOWER TO BE BUILT AT SNOW BOWL

By LILY JONES
Online Editor

Developers have approved construction of a new cell tower at the Snow Bowl to be placed to the right of the top of the Worth Mountain chair lift. Development has been behind schedule and will likely occur next year before the start of the 2022 ski season.

About two years ago, FirstNet, formally known as the First Responder Network Authority of the United States, approached Middlebury's Director of Business Services Matt Curran with the prospect of building the tower. The company puts cell phone towers in signal dead-zones in order to improve communication for first responders. According to Curran, their research found that the Snow Bowl was an ideal location as it will help extend coverage onto Route 125 and into Hancock and Ripton, current dead-zones for first responders.

The lease has been finalized, but construction has been stalled.

"The goal was for it to be completed by Nov. 1, 2021, as of now they haven't put in a single shovel in the ground," Curran said. "They have run into difficulty finding contractors and the equipment needed to get the tower up the mountain."

While the primary goal is to increase coverage for first responders, FirstNet is also partnered with AT&T and will expand coverage for users in the area.

"Our assumption is that while AT&T will operate the tower, they will also lease out other spots of the tower to other national carriers," Curran said.

Curran hopes that the tower will provide better cell service for the Bread Loaf campus, the Snow Bowl and for drivers on Route 125 going up and down the mountain. The tower's coverage will likely cover from Route 100 in Hancock up through the Ripton general store.

"Cell phone service at the Snow Bowl isn't great and at Bread Loaf service is spotty at times. I think it's a great thing for our community," Curran said.

The tower at the Snow Bowl is one of four FirstNet towers that AT&T is contracted to build in White River Valley towns. The towers have also met some resistance in the towns covered by the project, with residents citing concerns about environmental impacts, visual impacts on the landscape and reduced property values.

Curran is excited about the project and doesn't think it will be an eye-sore.

"You will probably be able to see it from a few spots in Ripton... but it's not going to be a huge tower," he said.

COURTESY OF ABIGAIL CHANG
Developers have approved construction of the cell tower at the Snowbowl to be placed to the right of the top of the Worth Mountain chair lift.

PHOTO OF THE WEEK: SUNSET AND RAINBOW OVER CAMPUS

Photo by Charlie Deichman-Caswell '24. To submit go/photooftheweek

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Local nonprofit HOPE reopens holiday gift shop

By BEN WAGNER
Contributing Writer

BEN WAGNER/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS
The board game wall at HOPE's holiday shop.

As the holiday season approaches, low-income Addison County parents may turn to Helping Overcome Poverty's Effects' (HOPE) Holiday Shop for free gifts for their children.

The shop's services are available to families with an annual income at or below 200% of the national poverty level. Currently, this means that the shop is available to families with an average annual income of less than or equal to $53,000. According to Jeanne Montross, the Executive Director of HOPE, the shop will provide gifts to approximately 600 children this holiday season.

According to The Addison Independent, HOPE provides gifts through the Holiday Shop so that families can use their funds to pay for other items and not have to worry about their childrens' gifts.

The shop, which is set up within a conference room in HOPE's offices on Boardman Street in Middlebury, is festively decorated for the season. The meticulous layout spotlights gifts arranged by age group, with sections for stuffed animals, books, board games, toys and other kinds of presents. Montross commented that HOPE takes pride in its ability to provide gifts through adolescence, as many similar programs focus more on younger ages.

"Our greatest contribution to the community is that we are flexible and responsive, and our offerings are not limited by government requirements. We can do things that others cannot," said Montross in a written statement to The Campus.

Those things include providing a range of family gifts — including coffee makers and towels. The towels are provided by a local church.

HOPE works with many organizations, Montross said. Among those organizations is The Vermont Book Shop, which uses its bulk buying power to support HOPE's efforts to provide two to three books to every child — a piece of the Holiday Shop's mission.

Per the Addison Independent, bulk buying has been particularly important this year, as HOPE has found some gifts to be 20–25% more expensive this year than in previous years.

Individuals also support HOPE in a variety of ways, from a woman who knits stuffed animals to various volunteers that organize the shop to a middle schooler that decorates and advises on current trends.

According to Montross, HOPE prefers "donations of funds online, but actual items are also very welcome." Donations of funds are particularly important and useful because they can be leveraged effectively through bulk purchases and used to fill in gaps later in the season.

HOPE's staff and volunteers have noticed particular interest in string lights among teenagers in the area, following broader national trends. Monetary donations allow for increased purchases of specific hot-ticket items throughout the season.

The shop, from its interior set-up to the gifts it provides to its manner of donation, has changed over time.

"The shop in its current form has been in operation for well over a dozen years. Prior to that, it was an effort for people to 'adopt' specific children. The current method of operation is much more efficient, and much more empowering to parents," Montross wrote.

Montross maintained that all of the changes to the program had been positive — other than those necessitated by the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Last year our building was closed and we operated the shop remotely, with parents selecting from a list of available toys and books," Montross said." This year we are allowing people to come into the building to 'shop,' while being masked and keeping distance."

While there has been a notable increase in the number of donations made this year as compared to previous years, most gifts are coming in later in the season than is typical.

Volunteers expressed optimism about the community's ability to help members out and share in the generosity of the season.

The shop will be open Monday to Friday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Dec. 23. It will also open on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR MOLLY GRAY ANNOUNCES BID FOR CONGRESS

By JACK SUMMERSBY
Local Editor

Vermont's Lieutenant Governor Molly Gray, who assumed office in January, announced a run for Congress to succeed Peter Welch (D-Vt) last week. Welch, currently Vermont's sole member in the House of Representatives, is running for the Senate in the 2022 elections, aiming to replace retiring incumbent Patrick Leahy.

Vermont is the only state to have never elected a woman to Congress. Gray hopes she can be the first.

Gray, a Democrat, was elected Lieutenant Governor last November and defeated Republican Scott Milne with more than 50% of the vote. In Vermont, the Lieutenant Governor is elected separately from the Governor, though Gray works closely with Governor Phil Scott.

"I'm running for Congress because the challenges we face won't be solved by Vermont alone." Gray said in a Twitter announcement. Gray wrote she would fight hard for "the things we need and the things we believe in."

After graduating from UVM, Gray worked for Rep. Welch before serving with the Red Cross to combat human rights issues. Gray participated in field missions abroad, including in Haiti and Uganda. She attended law school, and was an assistant attorney general in the state before her 2020 election.

As Lieutenant Governor, she has advocated for expanded broadband access, affordable childcare and paid family leave. Gray is citing her experience as a dealmaker and fighter as she seeks higher office.

Her work has also focused on Vermont's demographic challenges and economic challenges, which are topics she wants to continue to focus on in Congress.

"Our workforce is shrinking, housing is unaffordable, families are forced to choose between caring for loved ones and paying the bills and our next generation is struggling to make it work," she wrote in a campaign announcement.

Gray has made her Vermont upbringing a part of her political identity. Growing up in Newbury on a now 225-acre farm, Gray has close ties to the rural lifestyle and associated issues. Her family's dairy and vegetable farm has had its business affected by globalization and rising prices.

Gray is likely to take these matters with her if elected.

In an interview with VTDigger, Gray outlined her positions on specific contentious issues in Congress today. Gray voiced support for Medicare for all and for the Green New Deal. Also a priority for Gray is writing Roe v. Wade into law, in light of the Supreme Court's recently held oral arguments.

Gray pledges she would work closely with Vermont's Senators and others to make lasting progress for the state. When asked about retiring Sen. Patrick Leahy, she expressed praise and respect for his character and conduct while in Congress. With his time in office, Gray says he has sent a strong example.

> "...a priority for Gray is writing Roe v. Wade into law, in light of the Supreme Court's recently held oral arguments."

Keith Chatinover '22.5, who has interned for Gray since June, is supportive of her next steps.

"I know that she's spent her career fighting for climate action, reproductive justice and voting rights," he said. "She'd make an amazing first Congresswoman to represent Vermont."

Vermonters, Gray says, have strong convictions, and she's running to bring her homegrown values to Washington.

Potential candidates include Vermont Sen. Kesha Ram and Vermont Senate President Pro Tempore Becca Balint. Gray is heading into the election with substantial funding, having raised over $50,000 in the first half of this year alone.

Middlebury businesses prepare for holiday shopping season

By EMILY HOGAN
Layout Editor

Though it may seem to shoppers that the holiday commercial season is just now coming into full force, many businesses in Middlebury have been preparing for this shopping rush for weeks or even months. After a challenging year for local businesses, Middlebury streets are now filled with eager shoppers looking for presents and baked goods to entertain family and friends.

Contributing to this shopping rush is the reintroduction of Thursday "Midd Night Strolls," the first of which was held on Dec. 2. To attract more customers on these three Thursdays, local businesses have put together a series of holiday promotions and discounts. For example, Jutta Miska, executive director of Buy Again Alley, offered store specials like 10% off all purchases offered during the first holiday stroll.

"This coming Thursday, we are raffling off two $30 gift certificates," Miska said. "And the last Thursday, we'll have 20% off all the Christmas items."

Other Middlebury businesses, such as the Middlebury Co-op, never see much of an off season.

"At the Co-op, we've been fortunate enough to be pretty busy year-round," said Karin Mott, Marketing, Education, and Membership Manager of The Middlebury Co-op. For the Co-op, preparing for the holiday rush means changing the types of items on display and putting out more baked goods and specialty foods.

"Just loads of holiday fun thrown in, but really regular holiday operations are still full-tilt like they always are," Mott explained.

In contrast, Sweet Cecily's owner, Nancie Dunn, said that she starts holiday preparations many months in advance.

"I'm still buying a lot and stocking the store because a lot of inventory goes out every day, but I plan for Christmas long before this," Dunn said.

Throughout the year, the store remains very busy as tourists, college students and locals come in to shop. "I kind of think of it as the town's gift shop, even though the customers are from everywhere," Dunn said. To keep Sweet Cecily fully stocked, Dunn travels to multiple buying shows throughout the country, finding unique and interesting items within the right price range. Buying for the holiday season requires an even more niche search into unique seasonal items.

In contrast, holiday items in Buy Again Alley come primarily from donations, most of which are Christmas items, though Miska mentioned she wished the store received more donations of other holiday items too.

Buy Again Alley also consigns with young adults 25 years and younger. "That's part of my mission to get the younger generation into recycling and second hand shopping and not throwing stuff away," Miska said. Many businesses throughout Middlebury are eager to experience a much greater holiday rush than last year, as Covid-19 made shopping in stores a far greater challenge. However, last year was not a bad year for all kinds of businesses in Middlebury. The Co-op saw a significant growth in sales in the 2020 holiday season due to a nationwide reliance on grocery stores.

"So many folks were turning to grocery stores rather than restaurants and other types of retail establishments to celebrate their holidays at home," Mott said. She mentioned that the store even expected less sales growth compared to last year, but this has not been the case.

With the return of "Midd Night Strolls" as well as other activities that they were not able to participate in last year, Buy Again Alley is attracting much more business than in 2020. The store is able to give out wrapped chocolate bars, and has set up pop-ups to bring in local artists. The first Thursday, the store brought in Sophia Manzi, a local artist who makes jean jackets with vibrant designs on the back. Buy Again Alley is also bringing in a family of glass blowers on Dec. 16 to attract customers. In terms of holiday set-up, the store is significantly more decorated for the holidays. "I want to say 15% of the store is decked out [for the] holidays and also the window is totally holiday [themed]," Miska said.

COURTESY OF LUCY TOWNEND
Many businesses are offering promotions for "Midd Night Strolls," which take place on the first three Thursdays in December.

In tandem with Thursday holiday strolls, Middlebury students will receive $20 in Middlebury Money to spend at local businesses on Dec. 9 and take advantage of what various Middlebury shops have to offer.

Eugenics, Dispossession and Reparations at Middlebury

Op-Ed

***Daniel Silva** is Associate Professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies, Director of the Black Studies Program and Director of the Twilight Project.*

The College's decision, announced on September 27, to remove the name of John A. Mead from one of the tallest structures of the campus's built environment should be just the beginning of a deeper institutional and broader historical introspection into the college's relationship to structural forms of injustice. In the history of eugenics in the state of Vermont, Mead, as a governor who advocated for eugenics legislation in the early 1900s, is merely the tip of the iceberg.

Mead's position on eugenics is far from abstract. In the decades prior to and following his 1912 speech as he left office, numerous institutions of eugenic policy and thought opened across the state such as schools, hospitals, prisons, asylums and even colonies. These included the Vermont Reform School (opened in 1865 in Vergennes), the Vermont State Hospital for the Insane (opened in 1891 in Waterbury) and the State School for the Feeble-minded (opened in 1915 in Brandon) as well as the latter's Rutland Colony for Girls of the State School for the Feeble-minded (opened in Rutland in 1925, and also known as the Riverside Reformatory).

Thus, the statistics of at least 250 sterilized Vermonters cited by the Vermont Legislature in its formal apology for eugenics is both an underreported number as well as merely a fraction of the violent reach and consequences of eugenic policies in Vermont. During this time, institutions across the state housed between hundreds and thousands of people in a given year, made up of indigenous people and people of color, French Canadians, and working-class white Vermonters, especially women of these groups.

We must think of this operation as one of systematic displacement and incarceration of people that led to not only sterilization, but the economic and social disruption of thousands of lives. Eugenics, as an intellectual and political project, "scientifically" legitimized and reproduced social stratification along the lines of race, class, gender, sexuality, and disability under the white supremacist and patriarchal fantasy of "progress." It is an oversimplification to say that the policies and discourses of eugenics targeted people with disabilities. More specifically, eugenics discourses aided in the construction of disabilities and concomitant definitions of valid personhood, and named who was worthy of life and who was to be barred from freedom and the fantasy of "progress."

Moreover, the economically exploitative logics and consequences of eugenics policies are often understated. These deepened racial and gender divisions of labor by marking who was suited to what form of work. For instance, the aforementioned Rutland Colony served as a place for middle and upper-class families to find cheap domestic labor in the form of interred young women. Meanwhile, the very displacement and incarceration of already vulnerabilized people led to systemic worsening of their socioeconomic precarity.

In order for eugenics to become such a far-reaching school of thought and violence, its development and reproduction had to be equally encompassing. The story of Mead is just one example of Middlebury's close relationship with eugenicists and eugenics supporters, which included trustees, donors, professors and administrators.

Eugenics implies a whole cultural and educational edifice of which Middlebury has taken part. One only needs to browse the college's course catalogs of the first decades of the 20th century to see the emergence of eugenics in the curriculum and across departments such as Pedagogy (later renamed Education and Psychology), Biology and Sociology. Looking at the 1931 course catalog alone, eugenics and ideas of social progress and pathology based on heredity and environment can be found in the descriptions of courses such as "Genetics and Embryology," "Social Psychology" and "Educational Psychology," in addition to nearly the entire course offering of the Sociology department. In this regard, Middlebury's curriculum followed national and international trends of Europe and North America. It is, therefore, not a stretch to consider that eugenicists and eugenics sympathizers, were, to some degree, trained at Middlebury.

Eugenics, though, was not just an isolated historical period or set of discourses. It is merely a subset of a larger edifice of patriarchal and western power of which institutions of higher education have served as brokers. Middlebury is no different. And so, this edifice has been reflected in the broader curriculum, culture and built environment of the College, all of which have codified ableism, Eurocentrism and patriarchal power. Today, the "About Middlebury" page, listed on the homepage, still posits that graduates should be "grounded in an understanding of the Western intellectual tradition that has shaped this College." The response should not be to merely change this language on the website, but first and foremost, to shift the curriculum so that this statement is no longer neither a College mission nor a reality, while also bringing a critical lens to this history of the College's curriculum.

It is within this broader trajectory of knowledge, power, and institutions that we should approach the legacies, contemporary reinventions and ongoing consequences of eugenics. On the latter point, as an institution whose history, like those of other institutions, is inseparable from the ongoing history of settler colonialism in the United States, Middlebury must be accountable to those who have been negatively impacted by this history. In other words, we must understand eugenics, Indigenous dispossession, and colonial curricula as intimately connected throughout the College's history, as well as in the history of settler colonial societies like the US.

Eugenics was not the first, last, or only form of sustained state-sanctioned violence against Indigenous people. Our reflection on eugenics and its impact must also account for the history of Indigenous dispossession. As we live on, work on, and profit from stolen land, reparations must be on the agenda of learning and reconciliation. Our recently approved land acknowledgement must be merely a first step toward land repatriation as merely one phase of reparations. In unpacking these histories, it is vital to collaborate with Abenaki citizens and leaders (as well as others whose families have been impacted by Vermont eugenics) and place their needs as our priorities.

This leads to yet another interconnected topic — the decolonization of our curriculum. As many members of the college community grapple with the colonial knowledges that are still reproduced here, we must foreground the materialities of colonialism on which this very institution stands. A step towards broader decolonization would be the repatriation of college-owned land that has been used for various forms of profit and progressive narratives.

For instance, the college was able to proclaim carbon neutrality in 2016, thanks in no small measure to the 2,100 acres of conserved forest land it owns around the Bread Loaf campus. These were only a small fraction of the 20,000 acres of forest that Joseph Battell bequeathed to the college in 1915, and which the college then sold to the U.S. Forest Service in 1930 at a time of infrastructural development and financial accumulation at the college. Battell's own acquisitions of these lands is deeply intertwined in the history of French, English and U.S. colonial expansion and its mechanisms of property privatization.

Eugenics would come in the last century and a half to exacerbate these colonial legacies for BIPOC communities, working-class people and women across the country. Herein lies another under-examined aspect of eugenics: with the institutionalization of people often came the seizure of the land and property at the hands of the State or other entities. Land and its repatriation, must therefore, be at the forefront of our work toward meaningful acknowledgement, reparations and justice. Eugenics, dispossession, and coloniality thus exist on many planes of the College's history, past and present, and must be confronted as intertwined processes of power and marginalization.

As an institution, we must continue our push towards a decolonial curriculum, critical knowledge of the College's past and its relationships to coloniality, and center the knowledges and needs of those marginalized by said relationship to coloniality.

**I must acknowledge and thank the work of Middlebury students past and present that have either gathered some of the information here, strived for radical justice, or have taught me about these issues (often all three): Paige Osgood '23, Elizabeth Reyes '22, Wengel Kifle '20, Treasure Brooks '21 (transferred), Kyle Wright '19.5, Anna Shireman-Grabowski '14.5 and Sam Koplinka-Loehr '13, among many others.*

Kvetching about dining hall etiquette

Op-Ed

***Liam Hahn and Nate Blumenthal** are members of the class of 2021.5.*

We're two Jews and we like to complain. In our culture, we call it kvetching. You can kvetch about silly things, like cold Matzo ball soup. Or you can kvetch about serious things that should really change, like a total overhaul of the Proctor Dining Hall heating system. In this weekly column, we're going to try and keep it light and complain about the little things that, if changed, could make Midd students' lives just a bit easier. We'll leave the big issues to the Editorial Board and kvetch about the small ones.

If there's one thing these two kvetchers have been getting their latkes burnt about since coming back this fall, it's the obvious misunderstanding of how to navigate the dining halls by new students, or second year students who are used to last year's Covid-adjusted dining hall flows. We can't even count how many times we've been stuck behind some putz who seems to think that serving tater tots onto their plate should be done one by one, barrel-shaped latke after barrel-shaped latke. There also seem to be a number of folks who lack the chutzpah to stick their cups under their preferred fountain spout just because someone is using another one on the same machine. While lines and wait times have always been a part of the dining hall experience, these student habits are making dining hall visits longer than an Orthodox seder. Is this your first buffet experience? We're guessing by your Canada Goose jacket that this is not your first all-inclusive experience and although this may not be a Club Med in Puerto Vallarta, we're sure your lack of scooping expertise is not the reason you didn't get into Dartmouth and ended up at Club Midd instead. No being a putz in line! Scoop like your life depends on it!

Slow scooping aside, there is another key blunder that we are seeing and hope to change: the total lack of acknowledge- ment of two lines. We know this is a liberal arts college, but we bet even a dance major can count to two! There are two whole lines in every single dining hall! In Ross? There's a pasta line and a meat line — if you don't want meat, just go to the second line. In Proc? There's two whole lines there too... with the exact same food! And in Atwater, oy vey, in Atwater, if you can't find the second line, you can forget about finding the afikomen at this spring's Passover. Come on people, we know that there's a lot of meshugenah in our lovely little dining halls, but this is elementary stuff. When we walk into that dining hall, all washed up and full of hunger, we need to start noshing as soon as possible or we will kvetch like hell hath no bounds. We have no doubt the lines will continue to be long, we all know the admin has about as much success counting people as you do counting lines, but that doesn't mean I should have been able to finish my Haftarah by the time I place that first (very full and efficient) scoop on my plate.

And last but not least, some new students seem terrified of getting to know the incredible staff that work at our dining halls. If there is one group that is truly flush to the brim with Mensches, it is this fine group of people. They work so hard to put grub in your gullet and we see you walking by them as if they don't exist. Trust us, it is worth your while to say hi and introduce yourself. You will meet some wonderful people with some great tales. Start with the people who scan you in, and as you progress through the line, held up by those without the ability to function as soon as their butler isn't bringing them a plate, say hi to the chefs and the other staff. It's that simple. It'll make your day, and theirs, a whole lot nicer.

Your opinion matters

Notes from the Desk

***Porter Bowman '21.5** is the Senior Opinions Editor for The Campus.*

This space is yours, this space is mine and this space is ours.

In my final issue as Senior Opinions editor, I am engaging in the very exercise that I've valued so greatly here at The Campus. The Opinions section is unique; the one section written in combination by the hearts and the minds of students, faculty, staff, alumni or any other member of our Middlebury community at large. Each week, Opinion offers a platform for any of us to bring an issue to light or to share personal experience with our audience and, for students, their peers.

> "Civil discourse in the written word is an invaluable tool for a community of passionate leaders and curious learners."

The public historian Jon Meacham once noted that politics is "about the mediation of differences, not the perpetuation of grievances." I believe the same holds true with this section, and this mantra remained my guiding light in leading this section. Every piece needs to have a specific angle and something to offer our community of readers rather than just serving as a space to vent. These may be particular calls for actions or pointed messages about why we should care, but each piece must be forward-looking.

As such, I offer my own.

As I grew up in The Campus, I spent my first year and a half as the Student Government Association (SGA) Correspondent. Each week, I saw my dedicated peers bring forward proposals to create new and wide-ranging opportunities for the rest of us. Whether it was weekly Sunday meetings about Senate bills or even the 13 Proposals and proposed dissolution, I saw it all across two administrations as one of the few public attendees to these meetings. These meetings sometimes went for hours because there was often thoughtful debate on how best to achieve particular goals.

In our own way, I see The Campus' Opinions section as a public facing extension of that effort. Civil discourse in the written word is an invaluable tool for a community of passionate leaders and curious learners. We strive to be a space for writers to offer words of support, of concern, and of experience to shape how we think about particular issues on our campus or in our world. As much as we talk about the importance of civil discourse in an oral sense, reaching across difference in the written form can also provide a way in which to offer a thoughtful path forward to our shared community.

My call to you all is to write. To write for your peers and for your community. To make your voice heard. To share your passion and your experience. The Opinions section is here for each and every one of you whenever that moment strikes.

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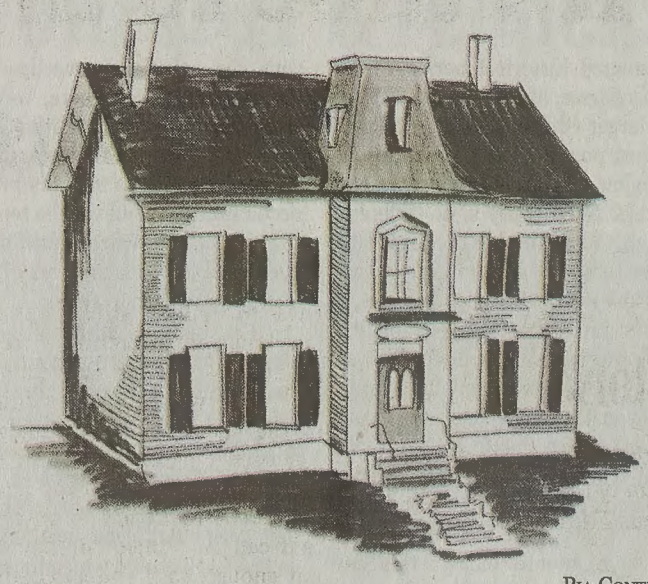
The Middlebury Campus

Reflections from the Inn

Op-Ed

Luke Stovak is a member of the class of 2023.



PIA CONTRERAS

Middlebury's mission promises an "inclusive, residential environment" for the duration of a student's time at Middlebury. The expectations for a college experience set by Middlebury fall tragically short for those living at the Inn on the Green.

Middebury's housing ideology is simple: structure community by proximity and shared experiences with other students. These two variables are inversely related — proximity can be traded for interest houses as students spend more time at Middlebury. First-year dorms are centrally located on campus, close to college necessities like the dining halls, libraries and classrooms. The density of students in first-year dorms offers a community created through awkward happenstance encounters. As students spend more time at Middlebury they have two sets of housing options. First, students can choose central and more comfortable housing options. Second, students can move out from the center of campus to interest houses, social houses, upper-classman reserved housing or off-campus living. Students then sacrifice convenience to personally structure community for their everyday living.

However, the Inn on the Green contradicts Middlebury's housing principles by providing no semblance of either shared interests or proximity.

Shared experiences at the Inn consist of shared indignance at an uncreative administration. These experiences take the form of long walks to campus, a feeling of isolation from campus life and tallying the number of parking tickets apportioned by PubSafe. Unlike interest house members, students at the Inn possess little to no connection to the community they live with.

In a normal college context, this experience would be difficult, but the pandemic has forced students' college experiences to be compressed. Four years of social and academic growth are squeezed into two and a half or three years. The burden of attaining a "college experience" puts enormous stress on students to maximize every waking moment. Trying to optimize a stressful and condensed college experience requires the college to meet their pre-set expectations for an intimate, inclusive housing experience.

When maximizing the limited time at Middlebury, the Inn's lack of proximity to campus creates logistical problems throughout the day. The Inn is about one mile from the center of campus (around Munroe Hall) or a 20-minute walk. To highlight the Inn's distance from campus, Middlebury's online campus map isn't large enough to show where the Inn on the Green would be, but includes crucial collegiate landmarks like Middlebury's Golf Pro Shop and Two Brothers Tavern. The distance isn't far, but requires planned thought to get to dining halls, libraries and (most importantly) other students; convenient access to these amenities are necessities for the physical, academic and social well-being of Middlebury's students. Simple on-campus conveniences like forgetting a mask, napping and resting in non-public spaces become logistically tougher at the Inn.

Most importantly, the students put into off-campus housing are those with the greatest social need for community. Those living at the Inn on the Green are juniors or junior Febs who spent either 22 weeks or five weeks on campus before Covid-19 forced them off campus. The first normal, full on-campus year for off-campus students will come when they are seniors, a difficult prospect for students already living under a compressed college timeline. I'm a transfer student from the University of Nevada, Reno. I started in spring 2020, then after five weeks Covid-19 hit, and I took a year off of school to return when we were in-person. Living at the Inn leaves me disheartened and frustrated, feeling isolated and disconnected from the school.

Middlebury admin have acted practically in two major instances to improve conditions given the unusual housing circumstances, but often these actions come late and lack support.

First, performing damage control by purchasing the Inn and retrofitting the space for dorm living provides a far more accessible community than Bread Loaf. However, Middlebury should have had a sense of upcoming housing trouble for fall 2021 after May 15 when first years' decision day was over and existing students notified the college of their upcoming plans. Actions to mitigate housing strains were possible. There existed practical options for housing closer to campus, the financial means to purchase new spaces for students and months to plan on how to accommodate on-campus housing for an unprecedented number of students. No major action was taken until the Inn on the Green was purchased in late August. The last-minute purchase of the Inn on the Green is emblematic of a disorganized and unconcerned administration. The lack of ingenuity from the administration to adjust to an oversized student body is a pattern, evident by the shortage of J-Term courses during registration.

Second, Middlebury also has reached out to those living at the Inn to find ways to address problems. But, solutions to problems are late and lacking. An email detailing solutions to ongoing housing concerns occurred 12 weeks into the 14-week semester. Solutions include priority housing for fall 2022 and a community liaison. However, the first Inn on the Green community dinner will occur this week, 13 weeks into the semester. There is a lack of clear instructions on parking and transportation to campus. Also, parking passes are inequitable as some at the Inn have faculty parking passes (since they were initially going to live at Bread Loaf), but most don't. No shuttle exists between the Inn on the Green and campus, which increases logistical difficulties as winter approaches. Middlebury deserves recognition for working to address issues, but it shouldn't have taken three months for Inn on the Green residents to receive support.

Housing lottery time slots should never determine if Middlebury fulfills its promise to students that "living on campus is a core part of the Middlebury experience." I understand the college is over-capacity and spaces are reserved for quarantine. However, the lack of imagination from a top-tier liberal arts college, with an enormous per-student endowment, to meet its own pre-set expectations is unacceptable. For example, why is the Kitchel House used to accommodate the CCI instead of students? Public posturing isn't a solution for Middlebury's housing shortage; we need creative solutions to ensure the health and success of the student body.

Middlebury Milk with Dignity: Invitation to Join Students Supporting Migrant Justice

Op-Ed

Jaden Hill, Emily Thompson and the rest of the growing Middlebury Student Collective for Migrant Justice

Last month, The Campus ran an investigative piece discussing alleged issues of wage theft and human rights abuses on Goodrich Family Farm, a farm the college partners with to meet its sustainability goals, as outlined in Energy2028. This was followed by an editorial calling for the college to take accountability and ensure fair living and working conditions for farmworkers, especially on college-partnered farms.

Despite recent attention, however, these conversations are not new, and organizing around these issues has been ongoing for several semesters. Since February of 2020, students and representatives of Migrant Justice, a farmworker-led organization based out of Burlington, have been in conversation with members of the school's administration about how to introduce labor rights standards into our contract with Goodrich Farm. While Middlebury's relationship with Goodrich is complicated — there are four parties involved in the contract, and we do not buy gas directly from the farm — it is unsettling to hear administrative responses ("we can't 'tell them how to run their business'") to what seems like a clear-cut issue to us: Middlebury College is paying money toward an institution that allegedly abuses farmworkers. This means that we, as students whose money goes toward this institution, are implicated as well and should feel morally called to speak up against these human rights violations happening to our neighbors.

Therefore, a collective of students has recently formed to support Migrant Justice and their Milk with Dignity program. Milk with Dignity is a legal code of conduct created by farmworkers and monitored using an external standards council that ensures safe, dignified conditions for workers on dairy farms. Milk with Dignity isn't radical; it simply asks for basic living and working conditions that any person should be afforded, especially community members whose work is essential and often overlooked. The full list of demands ranges from having a door on the farmworker's sleeping area to guaranteeing a minimum of eight consecutive hours of rest each day and one day off per week. If Goodrich had been covered by the Milk with Dignity Code of Conduct, farmworkers, including José and Heberto, would have been ensured humane treatment instead of withheld wages, verbal abuse and "decrepit" living conditions. Milk with Dignity demands the same rights for farmworkers, many of whom are migrants from Central America, that migrant workers and people of color have been calling for for a long time. Again, these are requirements that white, documented workers have been assured since the labor movement in the 1930s and are taken for granted. It's frustrating to see institutions like Middlebury continue to eschew the responsibility of guaranteeing those rights.

We don't have to settle for this level of abuse, however. We don't have to turn away from injustice that's happening under the guise of "sustainability," especially in our community. We cannot let this cycle of environmental racism continue when now we need deep, systemic change that values all bodies, all lives, and all contributions to our community. Farmworkers and Migrant Justice organizers have made clear what needs to be done. It's up to us to follow their leadership and support their demands for human rights and social justice. We'd like to invite you to join us on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in Hillcrest 103 to organize in support of Migrant Justice, including holding Middlebury accountable in their partnership with Goodrich. We look forward to seeing you there.

Reflections from the Milk with Dignity action in Portland, Maine: "Milk with Dignity is coming to town"

Op-Ed

Andrés Oyaga, Meg Farley, Sophie Liebel, Sophie Schmidt and the rest of the growing Middlebury College Student Collective for Migrant Justice.

Hundreds of us marched for three miles through downtown Portland, Maine, stopping at Hannaford's flagship store toward the Hood plant (where Hannford's milk is distributed throughout parts of New England), traveling over bridges and highways to demand Hannaford sign onto the Milk with Dignity program. This collective action, like all Migrant Justice actions, was led by 50 dairy workers who risked their jobs, and ultimately their livelihood, to declare their dignity and the dignity of all farmworkers.

Leading up to the protest, Jake Gaughan wrote an excellent investigation on the College's partnership with Goodrich Family Farm, reminding the students and staff of Middlebury College of the intense human rights violations reported by migrant farmworkers so closely connected to our community. As students who participated in the recent Migrant Justice action, we found ourselves standing side-by-side with people like those who endured the human rights abuses outlined in Gaughan's article. We are now sharing our reflections from the powerful space we held with migrant workers in Portland, Maine.

While marching, we heard all sorts of stories about how everyone had arrived — both physically but also in concern to their own history with protests. We were struck by the story of an older protester reminiscing on his participation in the Delano grape strike and Gallo wine boycott in California. This story places Migrant Justice in a long-standing tradition of farmworker resistance to inhumane conditions, reminding us that this is more than just a small-town dispute. Moving in unison through the streets with farmworkers, students, and other allies provided us hope that these people, the backbone of our agricultural industry, would finally receive the fair wages and living conditions they deserve, a promise that Hannaford can confer as a major retailer of milk from hundreds of farms in our region. Migrant Justice and the Milk with Dignity program are only growing, and movement leaders will not stop for anything until Hannaford signs on to the program. This is a fight that farmworkers are going to win, and we could tell Hannaford was starting to feel the pressure when they handed out lifetime bans to head organizers of the protest.

We are continually inspired by the farmworkers and allies who are giving their all to make sure a necessary change is made in New England's dairy industry. After experiencing the action, we are more certain than ever that "Milk with Dignity is coming to town," a phrase we chanted alongside farmworkers during the march, especially with workers at farms with a history of inadequate housing, wage thefts, physical violence, and verbal abuse against farmworkers.

At the end of the action, as we all gathered in the parking lot across the street from Hannaford's Supermarket, an organizer, Thelma Gómez, reminded us that we couldn't leave the action merely patting ourselves on the back for mobilizing behind this righteous cause.

COURTESY OF MIGRANT JUSTICE

EMMANUEL TAMRAT/THE MIDDLEBURY CAMPUS

Attendees marched for three miles through downtown Portland, Maine.

"I want to ask you to take this as a personal responsibility, to understand that this fight for human rights is now yours too, it is all of ours, and that we need to fight together to make sure that nobody's rights are violated!" Gómez said.

We often become easily distanced from the human rights violations that happen around us, right outside our community, as larger-than-life institutions and corporations hide the harms they are perpetuating. But, after hearing stories of human rights abuses... after standing side-by-side with these people and their families... who can ever turn the other way? It hurts our hearts to think that these folks have become invisibilized to the extent that their rallying call for dignity is not taken seriously. Their humanity is so lost for too many people — even here on this campus, which takes tremendous pride in its "sustainability" (which has already been critiqued for being an inhumane, narrowly defined, plainly inadequate understanding of sustainability).

¡Sí se puede!, if we can listen to the stories of these farmworkers, never forget them, and commit to meaningful solidarity. It's time for all of us to start valuing human life with our actions, especially if the money we contribute to supermarkets and our very own College institution is reproducing unspeakable harm, especially if we benefit from these systems of labor oppression, especially if we want to live in a sustainable world built around social and economic justice. We were called to join farmworker-activists in Portland. We are now calling on you, fellow Middlebury College students, to join our collective as we stand in solidarity action with dairy workers. Join us on Tuesdays at 5 p.m. in Hillcrest 103. Check out go/MOOvement/. We'll see you there.

¡Sí, se puede!

In solidarity,

Andrés Oyaga ('23), Meg Farley ('24), Sophie Liebel ('23), Sophie Schmidt (exchange student),

and the rest of the growing Middlebury College Student Collective for Migrant Justice

THE MIDDLEBURY ROMANTIC:

A MIDDLEBURY CHRISTMAS CAROL

Op-Ed

Edyth Moldow '23 is a columnist for The Campus.

I've always loved the holidays. For me, there was nothing better than driving to Keystone Lake with my family every December. As soon as we parked the car, I would run, cheeks flushed and heart pounding, down to the lake frozen over with the kiss of magical mountain fairy dust (okay, fine, snow). I'd strap on my skates as quickly as I could and make my way out onto the ice. I was in my favorite place, on my favorite day of the year, with my favorite people in the whole world. I never felt more content than I did in those moments gliding around that lit up pine tree, mountains rising with a hazy glow in the background, familiar tunes wafting from the lodge nearby.

Confession: I'm Jewish. So... Christmas doesn't mean the same thing for me as it does for someone who celebrates it. But still, that day always promised three things to me: time spent with family, seeing happy strangers, and feeling loved and warm and all the things you should feel around the holidays. One of my favorite traditions was watching "A Christmas Carol." You know, the Jim Carrey version? Scrooge was certainly not a favorite in my household, and people often invoked him when telling you to do things you didn't want to do: "You don't want to stay at the dinner table? Quit being such a Scrooge!"

I was, however, entranced with the idea of the Ghost of Christmas Past, the Ghost of Christmas Present and the Ghost of Christmas Future. As a seven-year-old, the deeper meaning of those three figures didn't really mean a lot to me. I think I understood the concept of time but, then again, that hour and a half car ride up to Keystone always felt like ten hours ("Mama, are we there yet?"). It wasn't until recently that I began thinking about what those three figures could mean for us here at Middlebury in our past, in our present and in our futures.

The Ghost of Christmas Past gleams like the flame from a candle, glowing from the inside out. Once you see him better, he's one of the Middlebury street lamps, coming to light the way, giving us a glimpse into Middlebury pre-Covid-19. Ah, yes. Here we are. You take his hand and into a tunnel of light you go, descending rapidly until you land in what looks like a... dirty narrow room? No, that can't be right. This is our past?

The floors and walls are sticky with beer and sweat, the one couch is populated by girls dancing to the beat of loud music, the single poster hanging from the wall reads "SATURDAYS ARE FOR THE BOYS." Atwater...? Of course, how could we forget. You see yourself there, pushed up against the back of the wall in the most crowded room you can imagine, scanning the crowd for someone to catch your eye and make their way over to you. You're shoulder to shoulder, then hand to hand, then mouth to mouth... all one bundle of heat and energy and closeness. But still, you feel alone. You'd rather be with the people you know and love — anywhere but here. You look trapped. You don't like feeling like you're in a crowd of people searching for someone to go home with. The Ghost of Christmas Past takes your hand, and you're transported through the tunnel of light.

The Ghost of Christmas Present greets you with joy. Clad in green robes and mistletoe, this figure smiles and laughs as he takes you to a hallway you recognize well. You see the common room, and in it you see yourself sitting in a circle with your friends, sharing a bottle of wine and laughing as the evening wears on into morning. He gestures, eyes glinting as if he knows something you don't. And he does know something you don't. He is showing you the love and warmth you have right there. You watch yourself tell stories, jokes and show your friends stupid memes and begin to see the world the way he sees it: as a gift. You look happy. But of course, that's a freeze-frame. One present moment in that room neglects the books stacked on your desk, and the photos of your family hanging on your wall, and you realize that the present moment is a conglomeration of the bustle of life right before finals, a reminder that you are returning home, and a rush to spend time with those people, your friends at Midd that you love so dearly. You wish you could stay here forever.

But still, the oars of life beat on. A faceless figure appears. Dark robes cloak the mysterious and terrifying monster before you. Inside looks empty, hollow, absent. You breathe in sharply. They take their staff and show you the way. JUST KIDDING! Nothing spooky here. You see your future, and it's surely more hopeful than this ominous creature made you believe. You see yourself returning for J-Term, studying something you're passionate about, maybe skiing or getting in serious snowball fights or continuing those relationships you left off on. Or maybe you're like me, and you see a foreign city on the horizon, just now peeking its head out of the snow as study abroad approaches. The future shines with a promise for new loves, for new beginnings and for second chances. There's always something there for you, and it beckons you to greet it with an open mind.

In the spirit of the holidays and A Middlebury Christmas Carol, it's time to reflect on our lives here at Middlebury, look more closely at our present and find points of light in our futures. If Tiny Tim were here, he would say "President Patton bless us, every one!"

EDYTH MOLDOW

It's time to the tackle root causes

Editorial

The editorial represents the opinion of the Middlebury Campus Editorial Board.

Content Warning: This article contains mentions of student deaths.

We won't sugarcoat it. It's been a difficult semester. We've continued to navigate the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, the combination of over-enrollment and understaffing and the devastating loss of two of our own peers in the class of 2023. At times, it's felt as if things have been hanging on by a thread.

We've published nine editorials this fall, most of which touch on these topics, implicitly or explicitly. For our tenth and final editorial of the semester, we're returning to them to evaluate trends and to parse through where progress still needs to be made going into J-term and the spring semester.

Covid-19 Policies and Communication

We've appreciated the email updates that outline health and safety protocols, but rhetoric that says to "avoid crowded gatherings" and "take care of yourself" puts an undue onus on students to self-regulate instead of relying on systematic infrastructure like mandatory testing. This advice is also hard to follow within Middlebury's current structure — we attend at least one "crowded gathering" when we sit down to dinner in the dining halls every night. The college needs to institute Covid-19 policies using a top-down, consistent approach — anything that can be termed "optional" is not enough as the most cautious of us will engage in testing and self-isolation while the others will not.

While we support the decision to require pre-arrival testing before J-term, testing before coming to campus still presents financial and logistical burdens to students. The extension for pre-arrival testing in J-term from three days to five indicates some level of acknowledgement of these challenges but it still does not alleviate other issues, like out of pocket testing costs or a lack of testing options in students' hometowns. For the third time this semester, we are asking that the college provides and requires weekly, on-campus testing in order to keep us safe.

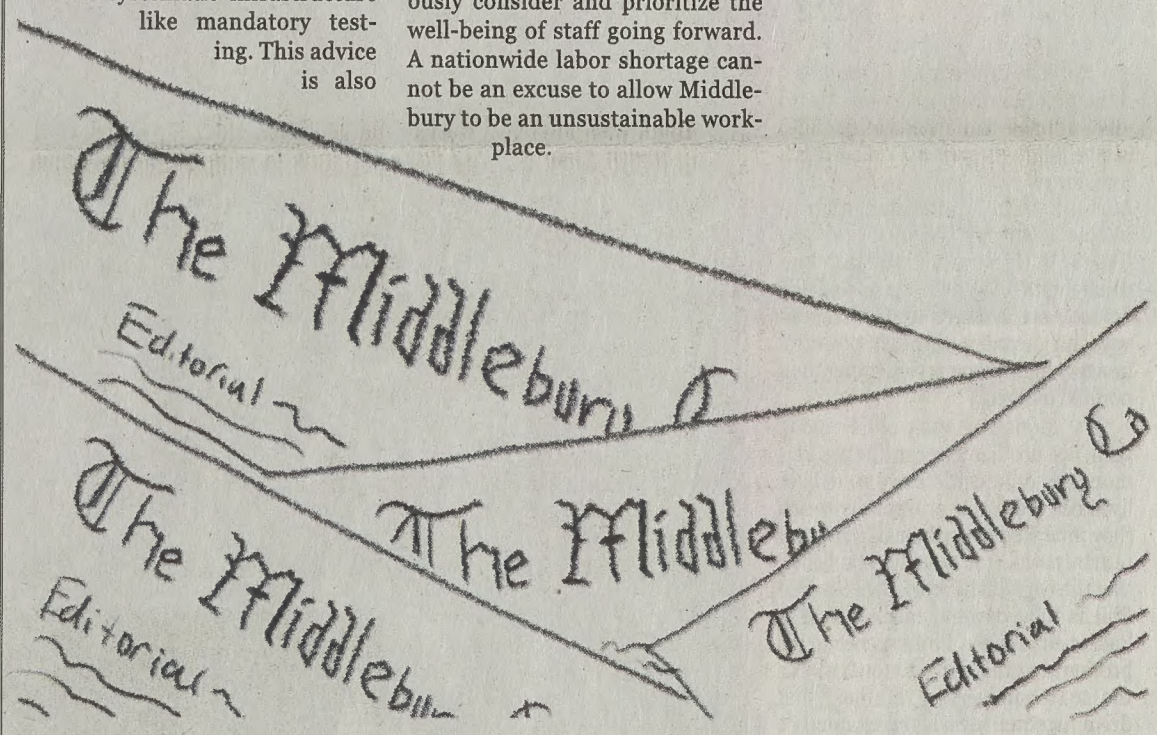
Supporting College Staff

The $1k retention bonus does not address the root causes of the current staffing shortage at the college. More so, an additional one-thousand dollars doesn't make much of a dent when it comes to supporting a family and keeping up with the cost of living in Addison County. We need to invest in long term solutions — namely hiring more staff and raising wages without compression. We cannot rely on band-aid solutions in a time of crisis. We hope that the administration will seriously consider and prioritize the well-being of staff going forward. A nationwide labor shortage cannot be an excuse to allow Middlebury to be an unsustainable workplace.

Recognizing the Need for an Overhaul of Mental Health Services

While the college has offered a few events branded as "stress-busters" — such as building a stuffed animal or playing with puppies — these function more as quick study breaks. Though we appreciate them, they do not adequately fill in the gaps in Middlebury's mental health infrastructure. We've again and again reaffirmed that students are struggling. Not knowing what students need can no longer be an excuse. We require in-person counseling, a school psychiatrist, the eradication of mandatory leave policies and more counselors of color, to start. We appreciate the faculty vote that extended the drop deadline and re-instituted the CR/NCR option — but again, this serves as a potential respite from certain stressors. It does not address the root causes of the mental health crisis that has been exacerbated by campus culture and inadequate resources. We feel that as students, we have been engaging in more transparent and vulnerable conversations regarding mental health with each other. We hope that the college will join us.

With all of these issues, the college's current means of tackling them is falling short. It's time to move beyond short-term, band-aid solutions; we need to fix problems at their source. The college's decisions need to to be proactive — not reactive — and we are asking Middlebury to consider our concerns on all three of these fronts.



Sex Panther

Relationship Anarchy: Validating Intentional and Pleasurable Relationships

Op-Ed

Sex Panther

I know that I talk all about sex, dating and relationships, but I'll be honest... a lot of relationship standards confuse the shit out of me. There are too many specific ways for how my partner and I are "supposed to" exist. At the beginning of our relationship, I often found myself questioning if I was doing something because I wanted to or because I was expected to. I'm grateful that my partner and I have such good communication and are both willing to play with our relationship to figure out what works. After workshopping our relationship dynamic, we stumbled into the magical world of Relationship Anarchy (RA).

Here's a bit of what RA means to me:

I co-create relationships on a foundation of consent, honesty, trust and clear communication; I honor boundaries and respect the full autonomy of all individuals involved; I believe that love is infinite and I may love as many people as I choose — loving someone does not diminish my capacity to love someone else; I favor commitments that honor our individual and collective needs and capacities; I believe that physical intimacy does not dictate who my important people are; I believe that all relationships should ultimately be pleasurable to all involved.

It is key to note that relationship anarchy is not a dating style; but rather applies to all relationships, platonic and non-platonic. Many relationship constructions place romantic and/or sexual relationship(s) on a higher pedestal than platonic relationship(s); RA fully rejects this hierachy. I do not value my relationship with my partner over my relationship with my best friend.

Let me give you some examples of RA at work:

You and your bestie have a deep connection. People always ask if you two are together, and you're not. You have plans to live together after graduation and affectionately refer to the other as your "platonic soulmate." If you haven't heard it before: your relationship is completely valid as is. If you want to be domestic partners and not be romantic partners, that's totally OK. Co-create a relationship that meets your collective individual needs.

You and a friend want to start exploring kink together and aren't interested in anything romantic or sexual. You are both nervous because you've been told that physical intimacy brings people into the realm of the non-platonic, and you want your relationship to continue to be non-sexual and non-romatic; you just want to have fun. With relationship anarchy you have the freedom to pursue dynamics that meet individual and collective needs and desires. Be friendly kinky and not at all sexual or romantic (as you both want/ don't want to be). Have the freedom to explore what works for all involved!

You and your partner are romantically and sexually involved and have both decided that you are better partners when you sleep in your own beds at night. Even if you idealized sleeping in the same bed as your future significant other growing up you both respect each other enough to make a mutually beneficial decision, even though it may go against a previous idea of what your future relationship would be like. That's so rad.

I know that this all seems like a lot. After all, we are trying to change fundamental ideas about relationships so they better serve the individuals in relation. RA provides the freedom to co-create partnerships that align with needs and a language to help communicate these relationship ideals. Ultimately, relationship anarchy validates intentional relationship structures that foster pleasurable ways of existence.

MIDDLEBURY ALUM MARIA BC SET TO PERFORM AT SOUTH BY SOUTHWEST

Continued from Page 1

SABRINA TEMPLETON

They reminisced about writing little songs to entertain themself when they were alone as a child. As they grew up, songwriting and playing music was a largely private part of their identity. "If I shared it with people it was usually recordings for a couple of friends and strangers on the internet," Maria BC said.

This all changed when they were 19 and the artist Squirrel Flower came to perform at Middlebury, who happened to be a good friend of Maria BC's partner. Maria BC played their songs to a real audience for the first time when they opened for Squirrel Flower at the college.

"After that, songwriting felt a little less forbidden," they said. They started playing more shows, including WRMC events and house shows, and felt welcomed by the tight-knit music and songwriting community at the college.

After graduating in February 2020, Maria BC immediately moved to New York. Three weeks later, the pandemic hit. Though they initially thought lockdown would limit career opportunities, the time alone afforded them an unexpected chance to work on their music. "I had this crisis... but I had to dramatically reassess my sense of who I was," they said.

Though the pandemic came with many challenges and stressors, it proved to become a productive time for their music. "I had a lot of very cherished alone time to write songs and record and just indulge that part of me that felt very driven to do that," Maria BC said.

It was during this time that they first released their EP "Devil's Rain," which comes from a southern phrase describing the phenomenon that occurs when it is raining while the sun is shining. "Stark ambiguities like that are really beautiful," Maria BC said. The release of their EP allowed them to start thinking about music with more professional aspirations and as a part of their identity. In "Devil's Rain," Maria BC employs their vocals as instruments along with guitar, synthesizer samples as well as a few field recordings. Their good friend and fellow musician Noah Sauer '20 aided in the mixing and mastering of the album.

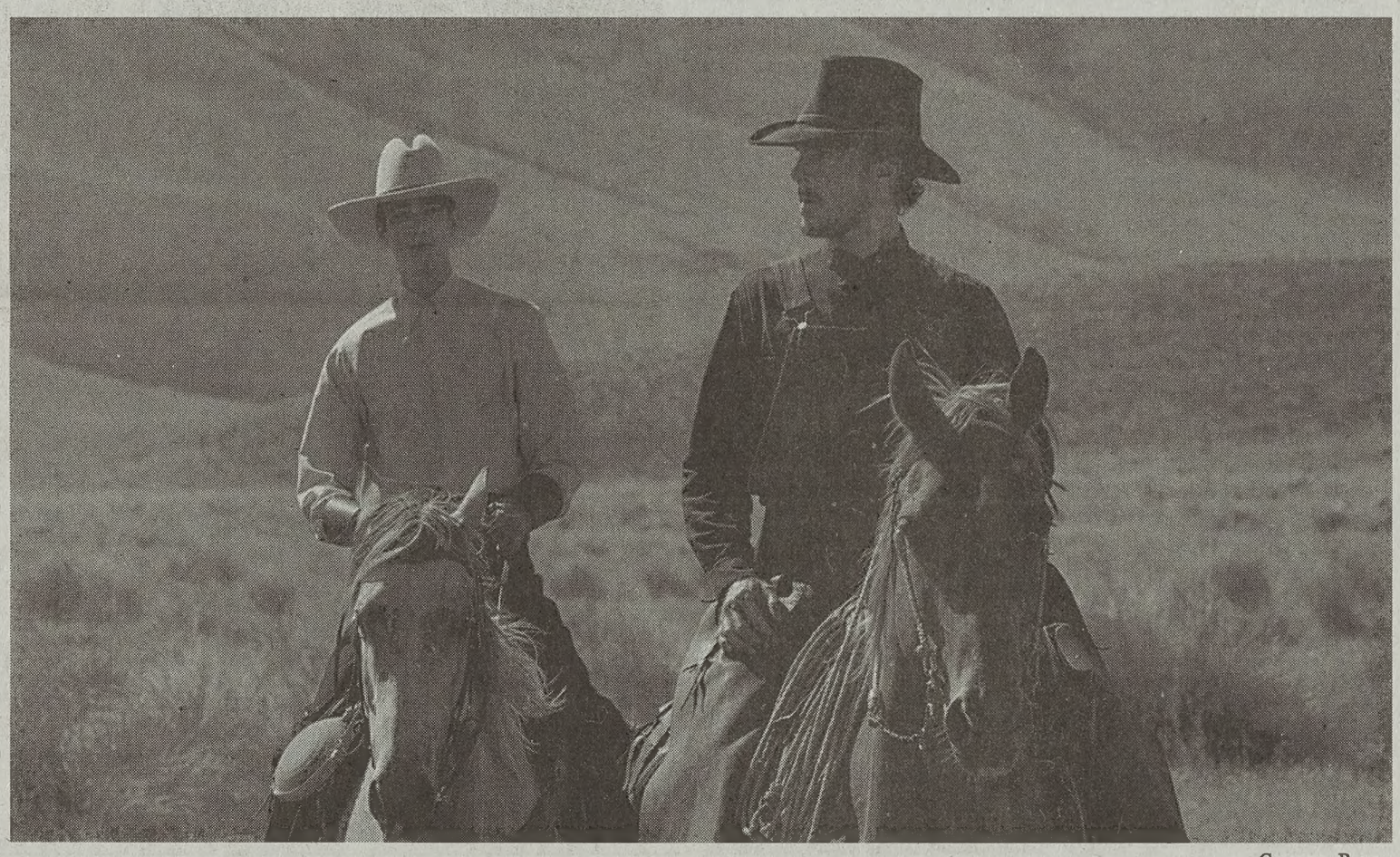
Though Maria BC explained that they take inspiration from much of the music they listen to, they attributed some of the interest in using vocals as instruments from the song "Birthday" by the Sugarcubes. "I definitely remember being 17 when I heard [it] for the first time — hearing that song for the first time and being so astounded by what she does with her voice and realizing just how beautiful and expansive the human voice is... That was really illuminating for me," said Maria BC.

Looking back at their time at Middlebury, Maria BC is grateful for the music community they found. "I definitely would encourage anyone who is shy about making music or is doing things in private with music that they are afraid of sharing to just put themselves out there. I guarantee it will be a positive experience," they said.

You can listen to Maria BC on Spotify, and you can find them on the Official SXSW 2022 Playlist.

Reel Critic: "The Power of the Dog"

By JACK TORPEY
Contributing Writer



COURTESY PHOTO

In Netflix's "The Power of the Dog," the first film from Academy Award winning director Jane Campion in twelve years, Benedict Cumberbatch transforms into cattle rancher Phil Burbank with a brilliance that is matched only by the quality of the film itself. He is raw, startling and ultimately tragic as he leads us through an intimate Western that often conveys its meaning through powerful imagery and strong acting rather than pointed dialogue.

It's Montana, 1925. Phil, along with his brother George (Jesse Plemons), is on a cattle drive to deliver livestock from the prosperous ranch they inherited from their parents to a nearby town. It is quickly established that the wiry, disheveled, dirt-covered Phil is fully devoted to his life as a hardened rancher. Phil's speech to his brother that this drive to town marks the 25th anniversary of their first drive together reveals the character's reverence for the gritty yet romantic rancher lifestyle.

George, however, wants to escape. Neatly groomed and dressed in a suit, he refuses to acknowledge his older brother's nostalgic recollection with a silence that captures his alienation from the life he inherited. The division between the two brothers springs to the surface once they reach the town and George marries Rose Gordon (Kirsten Dunst), the local inn keeper. Rose returns to the ranch with her son, Peter (Kodi Smit-McPhee), a teenager whose effeminate qualities inspire bitterness in Phil. They initially avoid each other's presence, but as the coarse cowboy and the gentle-natured boy inevitably cross paths, an unexpected bond develops that threatens to unearth a buried secret from Phil's past.

Cumberbatch is excellent throughout the entirety of the film. Whether Phil is mocking Rose's poor attempts to play the piano by strumming the tune expertly on his banjo or lurking in the shadowy corner of a barn behind the butt of a cigarette, the actor plays this fascinating character with a cold intensity that is sure to earn him hardware at upcoming award shows. The way that Cumberbatch interacts with Campion's writing and direction, though, really makes "The Power of the Dog" stick.

To put it simply, there is not a single superfluous word of dialogue in Campion's screenplay. Long stretches of the film pass by in contemplative quietness. When the characters do speak, every word is rich with relevance to the plot and its thematic concerns. But when it comes to the most meaningful parts of the narrative, Campion is sure to let her camera do the talking. She visually conveys important story elements that a less subtle filmmaker would likely have expressed verbally. In a memorable scene early in the film, Phil passionately washes the riding saddle of his idolized mentor. Here, Campion depends on careful camerawork and Cumberbatch's acting prowess to communicate the hidden truth about the character without him ever speaking a word. In a genre made famous by caricatured heroes and villains, as well as melodramatic showdowns, this more thoughtful approach to the Western is deeply satisfying.

All of this talk of subtlety and theme may be letting on to the fact that "The Power of the Dog" is not a blockbuster. You're probably not going to call your friends up this Friday and tell them to meet you at the theatre to see it. But if you have the patience to watch a methodical, contemplative, metaphor-laden western, you will be deeply rewarded by the craft and storytelling at work in Campion's film. Contrary to what the trailers may have led you to believe, you will be moved, too. Marketing for the film painted it as an intense, cerebral drama featuring a despicable Cumberbatch. "The Power of the Dog" fits this description — mostly. As the film progresses, a painful warmth begins to radiate from the story, and Cumberbatch's performance begins to elicit pity rather than repugnance. Go find out why — you'll experience one of the best movies of the year.

DON'T MISS THIS

Love's Mirror: A Duet Recital

Join Rohini Prabhakar '23 and Madison Middleton '22.5 as they explore relationships through a series of vocal duets. This show is part of Prabhakar's work in their 500-level class in music performance.

Friday Dec. 10 at 7 p.m. at the MAC. Free.

A Cappella Concerts

The Mamajamas and the Bobolinks are both holding their end-of-semester concerts this weekend. Swing by to hear some great vocal arrangements.

Friday Dec. 10: Mamajamas concert at 8 p.m. in the Château Grand Salon and Bobolinks concert at 8:30 p.m. at the CLT (Coltrane). Free.

Freedom Dreaming: Envisioning an Antiracist Middlebury

An original theatre piece focused on the experiences and dreams of BIPOC students at Middlebury. "Freedom dreaming is imagining worlds that are just, representing people's full humanity, centering people left on the edges, thriving in solidarity with folx from different identities who have struggled for justice, and knowing that dreams are just around the corner with the might of people power."—Bettina Love.

Friday Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday Dec. 11 at 2 p.m. at the MAC. Free.

Lessons & Carols for Advent and Christmas

This annual traditional program combines choral music, congregational singing, and the Biblical texts of the season. The celebratory community service features the Middlebury College Choir, performing under the direction of Jeffrey Buettner, and readings by students, faculty and staff. There will be large-print programs available, and the 7 p.m. service will have ASL interpretation. George Matthew Jr. rings in the service with selections on the chapel carillon. Donations will be collected for local charities.

Sunday Dec. 12 at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the Chapel. Free.

"She Kills Monsters" plays D&D in front of a sold-out audience

COURTESY OF TODD BALFOUR

In "She Kills Monsters," Agnes tries to understand her younger sister by playing her favorite game, Dungeons & Dragons.

By JACQUELINE QIU
Staff Writer

The last fall faculty production of Middlebury College Department of Theatre, "She Kills Monsters," combines imagination and reality at their finest.

Published in 2011 by American playwright Qui Nguyen, "She Kills Monsters" takes the audience on an exciting quest that unfolds within the fantasy world of Dungeons & Dragons (D&D).

In her second directorial work at the college, Director and Assistant Professor of Theatre Olga Sanchez Saltveit masterfully constructs an extraordinary journey where truths are revealed, inner strength is developed and a final understanding of death, identity and love is found.

Living in deeply conservative Athens, Ohio, in 1995, Agnes Evans (Bella Costantino-Carrigan '22) is an incredibly ordinary woman wishing for a less than ordinary life. "Agnes Evans grew up average. She was of average height, average weight and average build," said the narrator, (Naja Irvin-Conyers '24), in the play's opening.

When her parents and younger sister, Tilly (Maggie Connolly '23), suddenly die in a car accident, Agnes' once normal world is flipped on its head. Full of grief, Agnes attempts to get to know her sister, whom she frequently ignored while she was alive, by stepping into Tilly's world of D&D.

Desperate to understand her sister, Agnes begins to play the D&D campaign she finds in Tilly's notebook. In the game, Lilith Morningstar (Katelyn Wenkoff '24), Kaliope Darkwalker (Annabelle Iredale '23.5), and Orcus (Zack Maluccio '22.5), join Agnes and Tilly's character, Tillius the Paladin, on their quest. The party fights through a maze of obstacles, including a malicious fairy (Devon Hunt '23), evil cheerleaders (Victoria Keith '23 and Kristen Morgernstern '24) and shapeshifters, to reach the den of the five-headed dragon Tiamat.

For Costantino-Carrigan, the relationship between the two sisters is the heart of the play. Her real-life experience as an only child drew her to the way that Agnes attempts to form a genuine relationship with her younger sister after her death. "It was really interesting to me to explore how even though Agnes had a sister, she didn't appreciate the fact that she had a sibling relationship. She took their sisterly bond for granted," Costantino-Carrigan said.

As Agnes becomes immersed in the world of D&D, she discovers certain aspects of her sister that she never knew existed.

As a teenager, Tilly wrote herself into the game as the version of herself that she wished she could be in real life: confident in her sexuality and insulated from the homophobic bullying that she experienced in high school.

"[D&D] was everything to Tilly. It was her safe space," Connolly said. "In D&D, you can be whoever you want to be without any of those social barriers that the real world places upon you. Being Tillius the Paladin, a powerful female gay warrior, was everything to her."

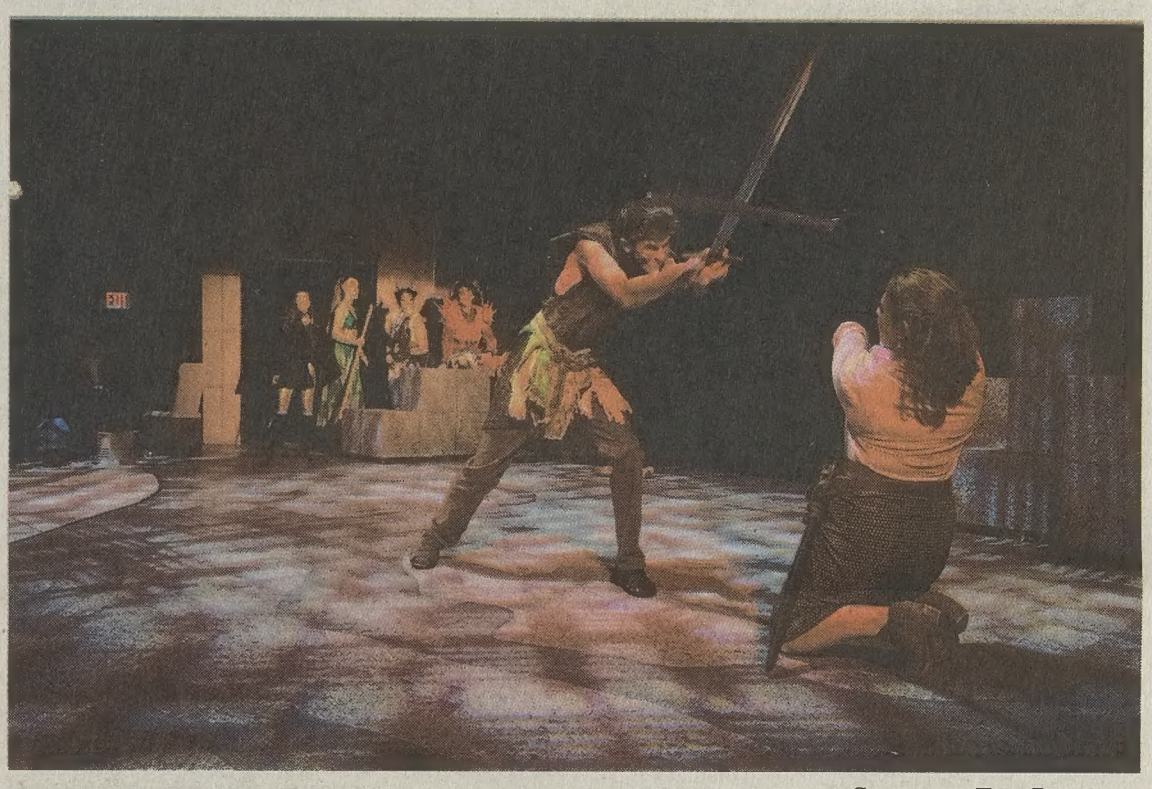
As the campaign progresses, reality and fantasy collide for Agnes. She struggles to reconcile her grief with the fact that she no longer has a chance to get to know her sister and grapples with the knowledge that she failed to help combat the homophobia Tilly faced in high school. Agnes tries to keep her experiences in the D&D world a secret from her long-time boyfriend Miles (Francis Price '22) because she fears his judgment of the game. Eventually, he joins her quest and in doing so, they both come to appreciate the fantasy world.

"At first there's anger in being excluded — [Agnes is] not a part of this world in this universe her sister has created," Costantino-Carrigan said. "Yet, that changes to guilt because her sister did not consider her as a safe person to open up about her sexuality. Her sister was experiencing oppression and was aggressively bullied. And it is Agnes' fault that this happened."

However, through this unforgettable journey with Tilly and her friends in the D&D world, Agnes herself has the final word on the memory of Tilly's life. Agnes decisively slays the dragon, Tiamat, to win back Tilly's soul, metaphorically reclaiming the lost relationship with her sister and finally loving her for who she truly is.

"In our mainstream society, we tend to put death to one side. Yet, I have always been in love with the idea of how death does not end a relationship, but rather transforms it," Sanchez Saltveit said in an interview.

Editor's Note: Maggie Connolly '23 is an Opinions editor at The Middlebury Campus.



COURTESY OF TODD BALFOUR

Agnes (Bella Constantino-Carrigan '22) clashes swords with a shapeshifter (Francis Price '22) who has taken on the appearance of her boyfriend, Miles.

"The School of Bossa Nova": Students bring Brazilian music to Middlebury

By BRETT SORBO
Contributing Writer

Just like Jack Black's rockstars in the famous film, "The School of Rock," students in "The School of Bossa Nova" course gave a performance to capstone their semester-long study of the bossa nova musical tradition. Professor of Luso-Hispanic Studies Mario Higa and his Portuguese class brought to life several bossa nova standards in Robinson Hall on Dec. 1.

Bossa nova arose in Brazil during the 1950s and '60s as a blending of the Afro-Brazilian samba tradition and American jazz, resulting in a softer feel than its parent genres. When jazz musicians are taught bossa nova, they are told to feel the groove as a sway, rather than the swing typical of jazz. Bossa nova inherits jazz chord progressions and samba rhythms, which combine to produce a delicate, trance-like atmosphere. Adding to its elegance are its soft Portuguese lyrics that capture themes of love and beauty.

In between songs, performers taught us about bossa nova's history and its pioneers. The bulk of their repertoire was written by Antonio Carlos Jobim (a.k.a. "Tom Jobim") and his oft-partnered lyricist, Vinicius de Moraes. The students expressed that they came to find a great appreciation for the duo's brilliance in composing a songbook so deep. Moraes' background in poetry and playwriting manifested in the lyrics for their creations, thus many bossa nova tunes take on a profound literary orientation.

The performers also shared the history of the bossa nova genre. Bossa nova directly translates to "new trend" or "new wave," a fitting name given the novelty of its sound at the time of its creation. In addition to being a new invention, it was viewed as a social movement, as its popularity on the airwaves helped garner a sense of national pride among members of Brazil's middle class.

Bossa nova also frequently reveals itself in the American cultural sphere. "Garota de Ipanema" (anglicized as "The Girl From Ipanema"), an invention in the Jobim/Moraes canon, is believed to be among the most covered songs of all time, with versions by almost any modern jazz musician, including popular musicians such as Ella Fitzgerald, Frank Sinatra and Amy Winehouse. The song's musical components are also recognizable in other popular songs today, such as "24 / 7 / 365" by Surfaces, which has the exact same melody and rhythm, but with different lyrics and updated electronic beats. Higa's group decided to stick to the original.

> "Preparing for the show was so much fun — we learned the lyrics in class and during sing-along sessions at the Portuguese house."

Another song that the class performed was "Castaways," which was originally produced in 2005 for the children's TV show "The Backyardigans." The song was also trending on TikTok several months ago.

Other songs performed by the group, almost all of which belong to the Jobim/Moraes songbook, include "Corcovado (Quiet Night of Quiet Stars)," "Chega de Saudade," "Água de Beber," "Wave" and "Mas Que Nada," the last of which is a true samba rather than a bossa and was also featured in the 2011 animated film, "Rio."

The night's educational interludes also touched upon the role that women have played in the tradition. For one, the most famous voice in bossa nova was that of Astrud Gilberto, who recorded and performed frequently with her ex-husband, guitarist João Gilberto, and American saxophonist Stan Getz. Beyond Gilberto, many female contemporaries have chosen to record bossa standards, notably Stacey Kent and Diana Krall.

Kent, a Grammy-nominated American jazz singer, attended the Middlebury Language Schools to learn Portuguese so that she could authentically sing bossa nova.

"This has been the most dynamic and engaging class I've taken at Middlebury," Malick Thiam '24, who played the shaker in the performance, said. "It was a perfect blend of movies, readings, lectures and discussions. Preparing for the show was so much fun — we learned the lyrics in class and during sing-along sessions at the Portuguese house."

PIA CONTRERAS

Higa, who played the acoustic and electric guitar at the performance, shared similar thoughts about the class, raving about his students' commitment to the material.

"I was impressed by the level of engagement my students showed. They really bought the idea I sold to them. Since there was tons of academic material to cover, we initially did not have enough time to practice. We then started to rehearse outside of our class schedule, staying longer after class or meeting on Friday afternoons," said Higa.

OUT WITH A BANG: ERIN NICHOLAS '22 LEADS FIELD HOCKEY TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN FINAL SEASON

The field hockey captains pose with the national champion trophy, alongside head coach Katherine DeLorenzo. From left: DeLorenzo, Erin Nicholas '22, Isabel Chandler '21.5, Danielle Brown '21.5. COURTESY OF WILL COSTELLO

Continued from Page 1

this fall, and trailed Bowdoin, 3–0, in the NESCAC Championship (Nov. 7). The common thread in all of these eventual wins? Clutch play from Nicholas. The midfielder scored both of the decisive overtime goals against Tufts and Williams, and against Bowdoin, she scored three of the team's four goals en route to a 4–3 comeback triumph.

"If we're down, you want Erin to have the ball," Harlan said.

In the NCAA Tournament, Nicholas scored six goals in four games — at least one every game — earning the tournament's Most Outstanding Player award. She had two goals in the national championship game against Johns Hopkins, propelling the team to a 4–1 victory.

After celebrating the national championship in front of cameras and the crowd, the field hockey team retreated into their locker room, celebrating their win by dancing to their favorite music. Then, it was off to McDonalds, where the team bought McFlurrys — now a growing tradition. According to Harlan, it is in these moments that Nicholas' contributions are just as meaningful.

"[She's] one of the kindest, most enthusiastic souls. I'll never forget meeting her when I did my overnight here," Harlan explained. "She was so excited to meet us all, to welcome us to the team. She loves Middlebury field hockey and works to know every individual and to welcome them. She leads by example, always cleaning up the field, doing the extra sprint, showing up everywhere on time. She shows us what strong character means every day."

> "If we're down, you want Erin to have the ball."

Nicholas' legacy on the field hockey team won't fade any time soon. The senior finishes her career with 161 points (65G, 31A), helping the team go 84–4 since the beginning of the 2017 season. The team has won 30 straight games and 47 straight at home on Kohn Field. Looking forward, Nicholas says she couldn't have more confidence in the team, noting "the program is in great hands."

"It's a little surreal that it's all over, but a lot of happy memories came out of this fall," Nicholas said. "I couldn't have asked for a better team. The reason why we have success on the field is because of the relationships we have off the field. We had such a special group of people this season."

After a jam-packed fall season, Nicholas is finally able to exhale and enjoy some downtime. She looks forward to backyard hockey sessions at her home in Scarsdale, N.Y., this winter with her four siblings, all of whom played varsity sports in college as well. Two of her siblings, Michaela and Stephen, played varsity sports at Franklin & Marshall; her oldest brother, James is a professional golfer after playing for Yale; and her younger brother, Brian, just committed to play hockey at the University of Michigan.

"We put up a little ice rink every year in our backyard and still do," Nicholas said. "All of us go out and skate together. Definitely a lot of sibling competition, but in the most fun way possible."

Once Nicholas returns to campus in January, the two-sport athlete will begin practicing with the lacrosse team, which she's been a member of since her freshman year. In 2019, the team won the national title, with Nicholas being named an IWLCA First-Team All-American selection that season.

> "I couldn't have asked for a better team. The reason why we have success on the field is because of the relationships we have off the field. We had such a special group of people this season."

With the lacrosse team returning a core group of star players this spring, Nicholas and the team will have sights on winning a national championship come the spring. If they do go all the way, it will mark Nicholas' sixth national championship while at Middlebury.

"What she's accomplished on the field is unlike anything we've ever seen," Harlan said. "Year after year, day in and day out, she sets the bar."

Siefer's Scoop podcast: Kent Hughes '92, Middlebury hockey record holder, current NHL agent

By CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Senior Sports Editor

On the final episode of the semester, Kent Hughes '92 joins the Siefer's Scoop podcast. A 2020 Middlebury Athletics Hall of Fame selection, Hughes played four years of hockey at the college, setting modern-day program records for assists (140) and points (194) in a career. After playing a year of professional hockey in Sweden, Hughes studied law and soon became a National Hockey League (NHL) agent; today, he has over 25 years of experience representing professional athletes. On this episode of Siefer's Scoop, Hughes discusses his time as a student-athlete at Middlebury, his time playing professional hockey and why he cherishes his career as an NHL agent.

LISTEN TO THE SIEFER'S SCOOP PODCAST ON SPOTIFY

COURTESY PHOTO

Despite slow start, men's squash optimistic about winter season

By BEN MONNICH
Contributing Writer

Middlebury men's squash has a history of success. Ever since the team earned varsity status in 2008, it has consistently ranked among the top 25 schools in the nation. Most recently, the team won the Summers Cup — the national championship for the teams ranked No. 17 to No. 24 in the nation — in 2017 and finished second in 2020.

Led by senior captains Teddy Best '22 and Nate Moll '22, the 2021–22 team aims to continue its legacy of success. In accordance with this history and the strength of their squad, the Panthers entered the season ranked No. 21 in the nation.

"January is going to be big for us as we have around ten matches in that month alone," said Drew Patty '24, a sophomore on the team. "The team has been working very hard to prepare, thinking about different aspects of our game and how we can improve not just as individuals but also as a team."

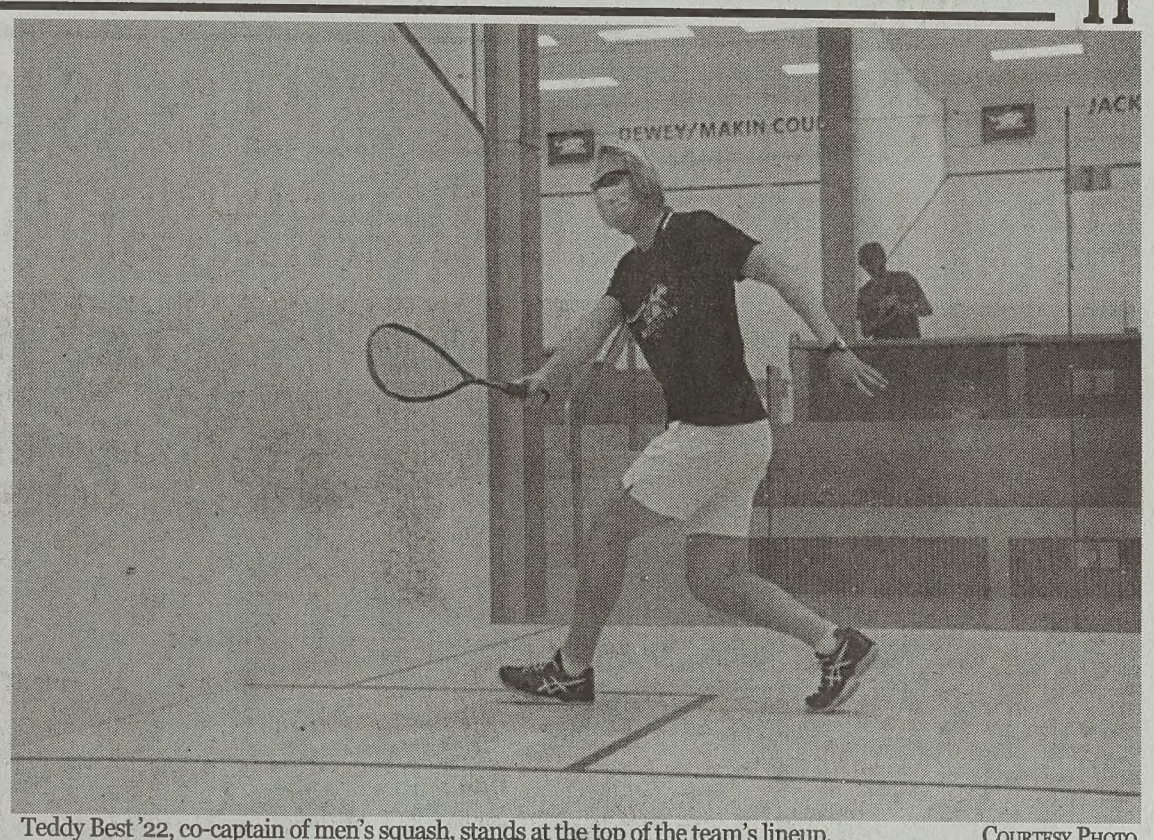
This strong work ethic and leadership will be instrumental for the Panthers this winter.

The team, unfortunately, has struggled in its first two matches.

On Nov. 20, the team traveled to the University of St. Lawrence to participate in a doubleheader weekend. In the first match of the season, the Panthers faced off against No. 12 Western Ontario University. Western Ontario won, 9–0, against Middlebury.

Despite the lopsided scoreline, Middlebury's performance wasn't all bad. Moll won his first two games by scores of 11–6 and 11–3 but lost the next three games to fall 2–3 to his opponent. Sophomore Omar Nemr '24, too, held his own in his match. After falling behind by two games, Nemr came back to even the score before ultimately losing in the final game.

The next day, on Nov. 21, Middlebury faced St. Lawrence. The hosts entered the match ranked No. 20 in the nation. In another one-sided contest, St. Lawrence took home the win, 8–1.



Teddy Best '22, co-captain of men's squash, stands at the top of the team's lineup. COURTESY PHOTO

Again, although the Panthers were not content with this result, there were certainly some positive takeaways from this match. Carter Joyce '24 won his match in four games to give the Panthers their first victory of the season.

"It was a tough weekend for us," Patty said about these first two matches. "St. Lawrence and Western Ontario are both good teams, but there was definitely a lot of frustration following those losses. We are taking that frustration and putting the energy into training to become the best variation of our team we can be by January and hopefully put some better results on the scoreboard in the future."

The team plays its next matches on Jan. 7, 8 and 9 against Bowdoin, Colby and Bates, respectively.

Seven Questions with Noah Osher '23.5, men's basketball

Noah Osher '23.5 (No. 3) has started all nine games for the Panthers this season. COURTESY OF COLIN BOURQUE

By CAPTAIN RUDOLPH
Contributing Writer

Noah Osher '23.5, from Northbrook, Ill., is playing in his second season on the men's basketball team. In this installment of "Seven Questions," Osher discusses his best moments with the team, his playing style and his favorite meal on campus.

Captain Rudolph: Who has been your professional basketball role model growing up?

Noah Osher: Chris Paul. He is a really, really good point guard. He controls the game really well, can shoot, and he is really undersized. Paul has been an all-star every year. So growing up, I was a huge fan, and I still am.

CR: How did you choose to play the guard position?

NO: I didn't really have a choice. Because I was short, it was between point guard and shooting guard. I never learned to dribble, but I learned to shoot, so I became a shooting guard. I didn't really have a lot of say in it. I still can't dribble, but I can shoot, and I love the position.

CR: What have been your favorite games in your Middlebury and high school careers?

NO: This is my first year starting for the team and in the nine games we've played thus far, we've had some really great outings. We beat a really good Albertus Magnus team on December 2––that was probably the best game that our team has played this year. We went into their place, which had a lot of loud fans, and we beat them by two points. It was awesome to win. In high school, beating Loyola Academy was a big deal. I never liked them very much as they were our rival, and we beat them on the day before Thanksgiving my senior year. I played well so it was fun, and I'll never forget that.

CR: Do you have any pre-game rituals?

NO: I always eat a peanut butter and jelly sandwich. Also, I like to have between two and three jelly beans because they taste good, and I like how the sugar amps me up! But I only have a couple because if I have too many, I'll feel super sick while I play. And then I have a bunch of granola too before I play. So, it's all food.

CR: What's your favorite dining hall meal on campus?

NO: Chicken parmesan in Atwater. That's easy. I have five pieces every time they have that meal, and that's it. But then also I'll get some salted caramel ice cream. I don't put it in a cone or a bowl though — I put it in a cup to make it look like more. That's my little brain hack right there.

CR: What's your favorite sport to play that's not basketball?

NO: Probably golf. My dad got me into golf growing up. I'm really bad at it, but I play a lot in the summer. Growing up, I played like ten different sports. The only sport I feel like I really suck at is baseball because I can't hit a baseball to save my life.

CR: What is your favorite part of being on the men's basketball team?

NO: My teammates. I know that's a pretty basic answer, but it's a small team with just 13 players. We're super, super close, making it way more fun. I love going out there and playing alongside some of my best friends. And I also love winning. I love winning! So, I go out there to win too.

Exploring the lives of Middlebury's walk-on varsity athletes

By CHARLES CROUNSE
Staff Writer

What do J.J. Watt, Jordy Nelson and Scottie Pippen all have in common, besides being all-time greats in their respective sports? They all walked on to their collegiate teams.

While not often addressed, the walk-on process can often be a crucial part to a college team's success, and it provides the chance for more students to get involved in college athletics.

Although the majority of Middlebury athletes are recruited through a process of communicating with coaches ahead of their admission to the college, there is a small but significant number of athletes who have joined the team after their admission.

Charlie Keohane '24 of the women's track and field team walked on prior to her arrival on campus by contacting the sprints coach Martin Beatty and providing her personal records from high school. Having competed on her school's track team since sixth grade, Keohane was not ready to hang up her spikes after the pandemic brought her high school season to an end.

"I didn't get to run my last season of high school because it was cut short by Covid after two meets," Keohane said. "I thought running in college would be a nice way to continue running and meet some new people."

After joining the team for training in the fall and winter, Keohane says it was a major social bonus to be able to meet people through sport.

"It was nice to have track as a first year," she said. "It was hard to meet people with Covid and while living in a single, but track was a great way to meet some really interesting people."

COURTESY PHOTO
Charlie Keohane '24 (center), a walk-on on the women's track and field team, sprints out of the blocks in a 100-meter dash.

Although she had her concerns about possibly not making the team, Keohane says it was ultimately not a difficult decision to reach out to her coaches. "I didn't have much skin in the game, so it was really just an opportunity," she said.

Despite being initially intimidated by the prospect of competing alongside a team of recruits, the sprinter has found a home on the track and field team where she feels supported and comfortable.

"My coach, Martin Beatty, is truly the kindest person ever, so even though I'm not breaking records, I still feel like a valued member of the team," she said.

Keohane encourages any incoming students with an interest in walking on to a Panthers team to try their luck. "There's no harm, no foul in asking," she said. "Send that email or make that phone call."

Porter Bowman '21.5 took a very different path to walking on from Keohane, but his experiences have been similarly positive. Bowman, who had played golf as a hobby all his life, did not join the golf team until the spring of 2021, two semesters before his graduation date. Following the path of his friend and current teammate David Ball '22, who had walked on during his arrival at Middlebury, Bowman reached out to coach Bill Beaney in the fall of 2020.

"They were just doing modified practices, so there were no tournaments to look forward to," Bowman said. "[Coach Beaney] said he would stay in touch."

Bowman officially joined the roster in the spring of 2021, with the golf team desperately needing on-campus competitors with the majority of their team taking the semester off. "I reached out to Coach Beaney, we met, and he said he'd love to have me," Bowman said. "I became the sixth man for a team that requires five players at every tournament, so I felt it was good for him and certainly very good for me."

Like Keohane, Bowman says that despite facing initial trepidation when joining the team, the team welcomed him with open arms and he was able to make the most of the opportunity. "I still occasionally feel like I have something to prove, like a chip on my shoulder," Bowman said. "But even though I know I'm not competing for the top spot, I love the sport and feel I can add something to the team, whether it's on or off the course."

Bowman reflected fondly on his time with the golf team.

"It's really a phenomenal group of guys," he said. "It's a very cohesive group, and we've built an atmosphere where everyone feels they can contribute in some way."

Bowman encourages first years, or even upperclassmen like himself, to try walking on to teams. "One of the best parts about Middlebury are the opportunities," he said. "The worst thing that can happen is you reach out and get a no."

Bowman also tried to walk on to the men's basketball team, although a torn ACL hampered his ambitions. "I still worked up a relationship with the team, and I play pickup with them in the offseason to this day," he said. "Even though I didn't walk onto that team, it gave me the confidence to go for it with golf because I saw that varsity teams are not impermeable, so it's certainly possible [to walk on] and worth trying."

The global pandemic has also made the process of walking on far from ordinary. Maribel Carpenter '24 walked on to the women's cross country team during the height of the pandemic, which resulted in her starting her season two weeks behind her recruited teammates. Although she initially found it hard to integrate into the team due to Covid-19 restrictions that limited team events as well as difficult to shake off the identity of being a walk-on, Carpenter ultimately found the experience to be a rewarding one. "Over time I was able to slowly get to know my teammates and feel progressively more included with the team," she said."

Carpenter also strongly encourages students considering walking on to a team to reach out to coaches, and reminds them that sometimes it just takes a stroke of luck.

"For me, the reason I was able to walk on was because one of the girls on the team decided to be remote in the fall so there was an open roster spot," Carpenter explained. "Without that happening I wouldn't have been able to be on the team. If you're not able to walk on... it's probably not because you aren't good enough for that team but rather that the timing didn't work out."

Any students interested in walking on to a sports team can find the coaches' contact information on the respective team pages.

Editor's Note: Charlie Keohane '24 is an Editor at Large, and Porter Bowman'21.5 is the Senior Opinion Editor for The Campus.

VISITING GREG'S MEAT MARKET:

MIDDLEBURY BUTCHER SHOP FOLLOWS 40-YEAR-OLD VISION

By DEVIN SANTIKARMA & LYNN YAN
Photojournalists

Located at the central intersection, a couple hundred feet away from the newly constructed Amtrak station, Greg's Meat Market holds an array of surprises. The grocery store has a local, mom-and-pop atmosphere. As I step inside its produce-packed door, I'm welcomed by a cashier and roam the aisles filled with all kinds of high quality produce at a price suitable for a college student's budget.

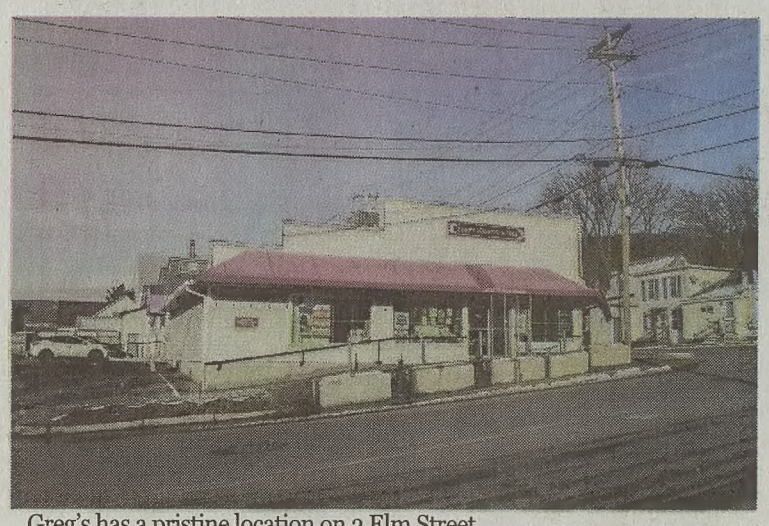
Beyond their diverse selection of items, Greg's Meat Market speciality is their deli and butcher. Led through the swinging doors, I meet Carl, the department manager who shines with a bright full-face smile, his beard in a hair net.

"People see their local butcher as their friend," he tells me. "That's what I love about this job."

Originally opened in the 1980s, Greg's has a long history in the town of Middlebury. Greg Rye, the store's founder, set out with a vision for an independent grocery store that concentrated on the butcher shop. Though Greg's thrived among local residents, Rye eventually sold the shop.

I speak with the store's manager, Gail, who tells me that new ownership "wanted to change what everyone loved about Greg's in the first place" and eventually the business went under and the building sat idle for years.

It wasn't until 2019 that Greg's reopened as a grocery store and butcher in the style its founder had intended, following the homestyle example set nearly 40 years ago. Even though bringing the store back up to par was "a huge undertaking," explains Gail, "It's already grown an amazing customer base. When we open up in the morning, I have five or six guys who always come for coffee and breakfast. I know about their families, they know about mine; it's really nice."



Greg's has a pristine location on 3 Elm Street.

Carl takes us on a tour around his small but clean and tidy kitchen.

The pandemic arrived only eight months after Greg's reopened their doors, forcing them to switch to delivery only. One positive outcome, though, was being able to see what their customers really wanted to buy the most, allowing them to provide accordingly once they were back in person. In the butcher, business actually boomed during the pandemic; as restaurants closed, people were inspired to buy fresh meats and prepare them at home.

Back in the butcher, I watch in amazement as Carl seemingly effortlessly slices huge chunks of meat into picture-perfect pieces. "I'm glad this one came out pretty," Carl laughs. Maneuvering a bone knife, he uses a 12-inch blade for the large portions and a six-inch knife to cut thin slices. Once he is done slicing, he makes use of the large machine next to him and vacuum seals his works of art into bags for the customers.

Carl tells me he loves how folks in Vermont are progessive and environmentally conscious. "We have some regulars who will always bring their own tupperware containers for their meats to reduce the use of plastics, and I think that's great," he said. In addition, almost all of the meat used at Greg's are from local farmers. Carl sometimes even receives deer from customers who hunt. The store butchers and packages it for them.

While Carl is telling me this, a customer approaches the window — a regular. While Carl patiently writes down his order, my eyes examine the cold but cozy work room that is lined with neatly organized papers, packaging and calendar dates on the wall for December, their busiest month of the year.

Given how comfortably Carl engages with his Vermont customers, it might come as a surprise to learn he is from Florida.

"My best friend moved up here," he says. "He wouldn't stop talking about it!"

Carl moved to Middlebury, honing his chops (pun intended) at the Hannaford Meat Cutters program, where he eventually made his way to Assistant Manager.

Before becoming a butcher, Carl worked as an X-ray technician in a doctors office for five years. "I guess that's where your surgical precision comes from," I joke. He chuckles.

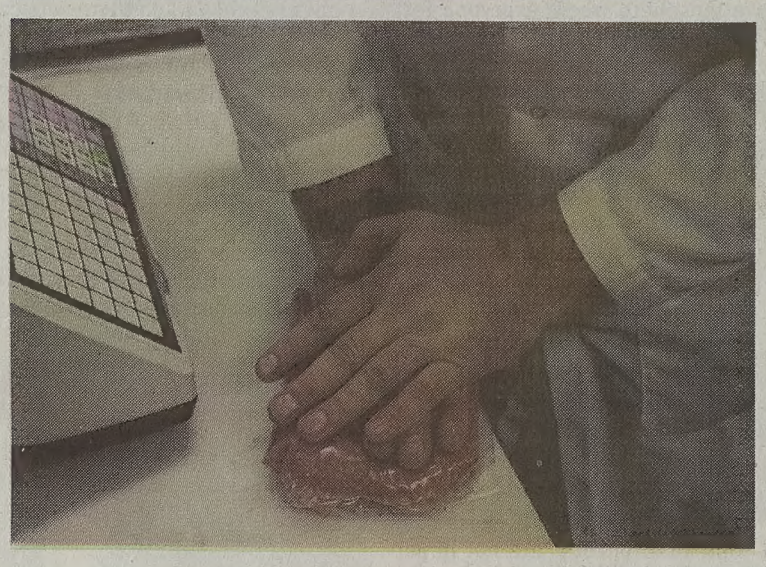
As Carl turns around, he leads us into the smaller room connected to the main kitchen, where he readies the meat grinder. Standing on an elevated step, he pours into the machine the leftover cuts from steaks, per the customer's request, and puts the ground meat into bags that he proceeds to press and then seal. He repeats the grinding process twice, and I watch as the meat changes from pieces of all sizes to evenly ground beef.

Greg's has a good relationship with the college, and they often cater for sports teams traveling to or from Middlebury. Carl often sees students who will buy discounted meats first thing in the morning. Once the Amtrak station opens right next to the shop, the store predicts they'll be receiving even more students who want to buy groceries or grab a meal.

As Carl and I wind down our interview, he compliments my camera and shows me some of his own photos of the Vermont sky, often free of light pollution. As for plans for the future, Carl plans to stay at Greg's and has a two-year-old in the house and another child on the way. "We're expecting April 10. It's gonna be a boy," he says.

Carl weighing the meat. He tells me he's good enough to tell the inches of slices just by looking at them. He's pretty good at getting the weight spot too, but he still verifies with a scale.

Carl chats with a regular seeking a popular beef tenderloin cut.



Carl, his wife and his son, Carl Jr.